

Out of hibernation!

Bears from all over the world converge on San Francisco for weekend 'Rendezvous.'

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SF political club changes

Alice Club gets TG co-chair, Milk Club get woman prez.

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Polk St. confidential

Dropping in on 'Live at the Lush Lounge.'

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Demonstration kicks off Freedom to Marry Week

by Katie Szymanski

Dozens of people took a stand on the steps of City Hall Tuesday, February 12, demanding the legalization of same-sex marriage and the 1,300 rights that come with it.

Holding signs that denoted their displeasure with the civil union and domestic partnership systems, the crowd engaged in cheers and was backed by supportive speakers such as Supervisors Chris Daly and Mark Leno; Mike Marshall of Californians for Civil Marriage; and Davina Kotulski of Marriage Equality California. Several gay and lesbian firefighters and police officers were also on hand to tie in the issues of September 11, a tragedy that left many survivors in same-sex relationships without federal benefits due to the inability to marry.

One year ago, noted Kotulski, when other lesbian and gay couples were celebrating Valentine's Day, she and her partner Molly were grieving over their being denied a marriage license. Although the two had expected the rejection, "Nothing could prepare me," said Kotulski, "for the humiliation of having my five-year relationship invalidated."

What made it worse, said Kotulski, was knowing that she could walk into City Hall with a complete stranger of the opposite sex and be granted a marriage license. Being satisfied with a separate but equal system, she said, furthered the perception that gay couples are different from heterosexual ones.

It is time, echoed Marshall, for gays and lesbians not only to come out, but to start talking to their straight friends and colleagues about why they deserve the right to marry.

The demonstration was part of many events planned for "Freedom to Marry Week," sponsored by a variety of Bay Area organizations. For more information on marriage events and Valentine's Day celebrations, visit www.civilmarriage.org, www.marriageequalityca.org, or www.ourfamily.org.



Supporters of same-sex marriage took their message to the steps of San Francisco City Hall on Tuesday, as part of Freedom to Marry events throughout the region.

Controversial HIV ads increase condom use

New campaigns to launch in LA, SF

by Matthew S. Bajko

A controversial advertisement campaign directed at HIV-positive people has been influential in increasing condom use among the target audience, according to evaluations.

After the "HIV Stops With Me" advertisements when they first aired in the Bay Area in 2000, 19 percent of 87 gay and bisexual HIV-positive men surveyed said they were more likely to use condoms with HIV-negative or unknown status partners.

And preliminary data evaluating the 2001 campaign shows 40 percent of HIV-positive men surveyed were more likely to use condoms during intercourse after seeing the ads. "Preliminary figures indicate a significant increase across the board in the campaign's ability to get people to really reassess their behaviors," said David Windt, vice president of Better World Advertising, the San Francisco agency which created the campaign.

The agency released the 2000 evaluation last summer and posted it on the Web site www.HIVstopswithme.org. The final figures for the evaluation of the 2001 campaign will be released in April.

"We have seen an increase in the number of men who reported having unprotected sex with partners who were either negative or unknown to them at the time," added Windt. "These men then said the ad was convincing enough for them to think about their behavior and use condoms in the future."

and use condoms in the future."

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the "HIV Stops With Me" campaign first aired in the Bay Area in 2000 and featured HIV-positive spokesmodels in print ads, television spots, postcards, and on an interactive Web site. The commercials used the spokesmodels to personalize the message that it takes a positive person to infect a negative person with HIV.

The ads sparked a national debate not only due to their message, the first to directly target positives, but also because local television stations refused to air the spots during certain hours.

"It was something that hadn't been spoken about much. A lot of people who were positive were frustrated other positives were not being responsible," said Les Papas, president of Better World Advertising. "We felt early on we could tap into something that hadn't been explored and supported in the past."

The campaign was so well received that last year Boston became the second city to use the prevention message and selected its own spokesmodels to appear in ads. This year, the campaign will debut in the Los Angeles area on February 19 using six new spokesmodels, including the first two straight women to appear in any of the ads.

Due to a smaller budget, the L.A. campaign will not use television spots but will feature billboards, print ads, a Web site, and postcards.

"It will be the first campaign like this in Los Angeles that addresses prevention for

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SF Pride nabs Ian McKellen for parade

by Katie Szymanski

Many have seen Sir Ian McKellen on stage and screen, portraying characters of all sexualities with dignity and complexity. But the openly gay actor will soon take on a more personal role, as it was announced last week that he accepted an invitation to serve as celebrity grand marshal of this year's San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade.

Pride organizers were ecstatic at the news, especially after last year's frustratingly futile search for a celebrity grand marshal. "Ian fits in perfectly with this year's Pride theme of 'Be Yourself - Change the World,'" said Teddy Witherington, executive director of Pride. "That slogan is a lot like how his life has been."

McKellen, an actor for more than 40 years, is best known for his more recent work: as Gandalf in the 2001 smash movie, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*; as Magne in the 2000 flick *X-Men*; as James "Mr. Jimmy" Whale in the 1998 film *Gods and Monsters*; and as Uncle Freddie in the 1997 movie *Bent*, which detailed the life of a gay man in a Nazi concentration camp.

On Tuesday, February 12, McKellen was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his work in *The Lord of the Rings*. Earlier in the 1990s he appeared in *Six Degrees of Separation* and *And the Band Played On*, both in 1993, and toured with the 1996 production of *Richard III*, eventually writing the screenplay for the movie that followed. McKellen drew praise for his work in Laurence Olivier's National Theater Company in the 1960s and later as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company. He won a 1981 Tony Award as Salieri in the Broadway production of *Amadeus*. In 1991, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his services to the arts.

McKellen came out publicly in 1988, thanks in large part, according to Witherington, to a visit to San Francisco and a conversation with *Tales of the City* author Armistead Maupin. "There is a strong emotional connection between his coming out experience and San Francisco," re-

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Sir Ian McKellen

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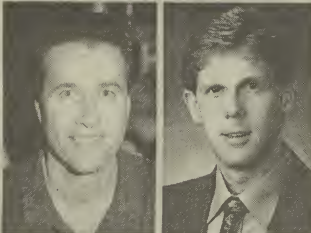
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The Bears are coming

Annual 'Rendezvous' this weekend in SF

by Cynthia Laird

Bears of San Francisco is rolling out the welcome mat as hundreds of big, brawny Bears and their friends come to town for the annual International Bear Rendezvous that takes place this weekend, culminating with the popular "International Bear Competition" Sunday, February 17.

While registration for the

weekend met its limit of 500 Bears and is now closed, according to BOSF's Web site, a limited number of tickets for Sunday's event are available. This year, most of the events, including the competition, will be held at the host hotel, the Ramada Plaza Civic Center at Market and 8th streets.

One highlight that is open to the public is the presentation of contestants Friday, February 15 at 11 p.m. at the Eagle Tavern.

Beneficiaries of this year's Ren-

dezvous include AGUILAS, the TriCity Health Center's Men Together Project.

Throughout the week, Bears are expected to visit the Castro, tour a teddy bear factory, and play "Bear Bingo" with special guest hosts, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. There's also a South of Market pub crawl set for Friday night.

For more information on this weekend's events, call the information line at (415) 541-5000 or visit www.bosf.org. ▼

SF, SJ LGBT centers

search for exec. directors

by Matthew S. Bajko

The boards of two Bay Area queer community centers are currently searching for executive directors to oversee the management of their facilities.

The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center board is in the final interviewing process of its search for a permanent executive director. The board is hopeful it will have made its appointment in time for ribbon-cutting ceremonies at the new building March 3.

The board of the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center in San Jose is in the process of forming a search committee after its executive director announced this month she will be resigning her post on March 30.

Barbara McCullough-Jones, who has served in the position since November 1997, will be moving to Washington, D.C. to lead GALA Choruses Inc., an international association of gay and lesbian choruses.

"The DeFrank Center is in a better place today than it was 10 years ago and our movement is in a different place," said McCullough-Jones. "Building on a strong position of strength will

serve the DeFrank Center well in the coming months and years."

Five years ago, after conducting a national search to find an executive director, the board brought McCullough-Jones to the South Bay from Arizona. Under her leadership, the center's operational funding nearly tripled from 1997's \$275,000 to nearly a million dollars this year. The center adopted a three-year strategic plan and embarked on a \$5.5 million capital campaign during her tenure.

She was also instrumental in diversifying the center's revenue streams, increasing staffing from four to 12 full-time employees, and overseeing a multimillion dollar renovation project. Center officials also credit McCullough-Jones with opening the building's doors to underserved people and organizations, as well as building broad partnerships with various organizations in Santa Clara County.

"Barbara has made such incredible contributions to building community; we will miss her leadership greatly," said board president Laurie J. Aguinaga. "We wish her well in her new endeavor and look forward to a continued bright future built on the foundation Barbara has given us all."

San Jose business leader and

board member Ed Kolb is chairing the search committee. The DeFrank board has pledged to work with all segments of the community in selecting its next leader.

"I am confident that the board and staff will work together effectively in the operation of the center and delivery of services," said Aguinaga.

SF search

Finding an executive director for the new Charles M. Holmes Campus of the Center in San Francisco has taken a bit longer than expected. The board had been in contract talks with its top candidate during the holidays, but those negotiations ultimately came to an end.

In January, the search committee began interviewing a second round of candidates and has been narrowing its choices down to six potential people. Oren Slozberg, the interim executive director, has agreed, if necessary, to remain on the job until May.

"We have several exciting new candidates for executive director and we are doing screening interviews with them," said board President Pat Martel. "The full board will interview the top two or three in early to mid February. Hopefully, we will have someone selected before the opening." ▼

Honor a bigot with a Pride brick

by Katie Szymanski

If you thought your voting duty ended with Pride grand marshals, think again. The LGBT community this year is also being

asked to vote for an "anti-marshall" or the person or people most responsible for fostering bigotry and hatred in the world.

"The field of candidates is indeed broad and wide," said Pride President Joshua Smith. "The Reverend Fred Phelps, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe (who has likened homosexuals to dogs), the Egyptian government (which has detained and tried homosexuals for lewd conduct), Jesse Helms, Trent Lott, and Dr. Laura [Schlessinger] are sure to figure in among the nominees."

The community is invited to nominate others worthy of this "honor," which shall culminate in the "Pink Brick" award for anti-LGBT efforts. Nominations can be made at the Pride Web site www.sfpride.org/brick.htm. Nominations close on Friday, February 22, and nominees will be reviewed and added to the grand marshal ballot from which the community votes.

"It's high time these people were

acknowledged for their work," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "As the history of our struggle for freedom and equality unfolds, these folks will be remembered for their contribution in trying to turn back the clock."

The highest votegetter(s) will help to draw attention to a specific case or incidence of injustice. For more information, call the Pride office at (415) 864-0831. ▼

Correction

The February 7 article "Repeat testers found to be at greater HIV risk" should have stated that researchers interviewed 876 repeat testers between the ages 15 and 22. They found that among the 7 percent that acquired HIV, over three-quarters tested positive within one year of their last test.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Feds raid pot clubs

by Liz Highleyman

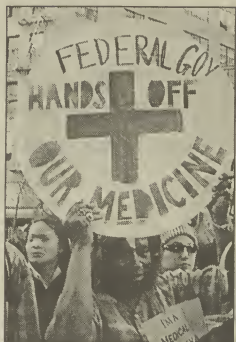
Agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency on Tuesday, February 12 raided the 6th Street Harm Reduction Center, a San Francisco medical marijuana dispensary. DEA agents also arrested marijuana activist Ed Rosenthal at his home in Oakland. Rosenthal, an author and expert on cannabis cultivation, was involved with the 6th Street club.

Ken Hayes, the former director of the dispensary, was also arrested Tuesday in British Columbia, Canada. Reports of another raid at a new medical marijuana club on Columbus Avenue could not be confirmed by press time.

With only a few hours notice, nearly 300 medical marijuana supporters gathered for a spirited rally and press conference outside the Commonwealth Club on Market Street, where DEA head Asa Hutchinson was speaking.

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan said his office had no advance knowledge of the DEA's actions. "The voters of San Francisco on two occasions approved medical marijuana by a large margin," stated Hallinan. "I call on the DEA to respect the voters of California and the people of San Francisco and stay out of our medical marijuana clubs."

Supervisor Mark Leno, who was instrumental in implementing the city's official medical marijuana



A protestor at Tuesday's rally

na card system, said the DEA raids were "a direct assault on the public health system of San Francisco."

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano called the DEA "an obnoxious, grandstanding, macho agency that fouls the nest of democracy."

Demonstrators interrupted several times with cheers and chants of "DEA, Go Away!" The protesters were joined by a large puppet depicting President George Bush smoking a joint.

As Hutchinson addressed the capacity crowd inside the Commonwealth Club, demonstrators could clearly be heard chanting and drumming outside, and he acknowledged that San Francisco was a challenging place to defend federal

drug policy. Many police were on duty at the lecture, and Hutchinson was escorted by federal agents.

In his speech, Hutchinson attempted to counter three arguments in favor of drug legalization: that the war on drugs is a failure, that legalization would reduce drug-related crime, and that legalization would reduce drug use. He also made the link between drug money and terrorism, a favorite theme since September 11; the government recently spent several million dollars to run ads during the Super Bowl touting the drugs and terrorism connection.

Addressing the medical marijuana issue, Hutchinson said Congress and the Supreme Court had declared that cannabis has no medicinal value, eliciting shouts of "lies" and "propaganda" from some in the audience. He said the DEA recognized the importance of listening to scientific and medical experts, and noted that the agency recently approved medical cannabis studies under way at the University of California at San Francisco.

"America is a compassionate society," said Hutchinson, "and no one would want to deprive people of medicine that would relieve their pain." This drew further howls of outrage from audience members who perceived the DEA's actions earlier in the day as doing just that.

Hutchinson stated that the DEA's priority was large-scale drug trafficking, not medical marijuana users; he implied that yesterday's arrests were the result of some unspecified "intelligence" relating to larger amounts of drugs. ▼

Jailed activists released on bail

by Liz Highleyman

Last Friday, February 8, controversial AIDS activists David Pasquarelli and Michael Petrelis posted bail and were released from jail, where they had been held for 72 days on charges stemming from harassing phone calls made to health department officials, University of California at San Francisco staff, and members of the media (including the editor of the *Bay Area Reporter*).

Following a week of scheduling delays, preliminary hearings in the case concluded last Thursday and Judge Perker Meeks lowered the two men's bail. Petrelis's bail was reduced from \$500,000 to \$100,000, and Pasquarelli's bail was decreased from \$600,000 to \$120,000. The men have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Meeks declined to drop, reduce, or consolidate any of the charges, which include criminal conspiracy, stalking, and making criminal threats. Pasquarelli and Petrelis still face a combined total of 27 misdemeanor and felony counts. Pasquarelli faces an additional set of charges stemming from the same incidents; preliminary hearings for those charges also concluded last week. As a condition of bail reduction, Meeks ordered that the men not go within 150 yards of the AIDS Health Project office on Market Street; Pasquarelli also agreed not to attend any public meetings.

Both sides claimed Meeks's actions last week as a victory of sorts. Supporters of Pasquarelli

and Petrelis lauded the reduced bail, while those favoring the prosecution were pleased that none of the charges were thrown out.

"It's good to finally be free," said Pasquarelli. "I look forward to presenting my case to a San Francisco jury, where I am confident I will be found innocent of these outrageous charges."

Petrelis, who says he is dealing with stress and pressing health problems stemming from his time in jail, said, "I'm glad to be out and am looking forward to being exonerated at trial."

"I'm glad the charges weren't reduced," said John Iversen of ACT UP/East Bay. "Pasquarelli poses a serious and dangerous threat to the community at large and specifically to people with AIDS. He and his group of denialists continue to do damage to the AIDS activist movement and the drive for global treatment access." Iversen continued, "Pasquarelli and Petrelis have to wake up and realize that after September 11, these childish pranks are taken very seriously."

According to Michael Lauro, "ACT UP/San Francisco's long history of harassment reduces these people to nothing more than a gang of thugs posing as activists. They deserve to be prosecuted to restore a sense of safety every citizen in our city is entitled to." Lauro is a member of AIDS Activists Against Violence and Lies, a local organization formed to confront the behavior of ACT UP/SF.

The case will now go before a jury. Arraignment and pretrial motions are scheduled for February 25. ▼



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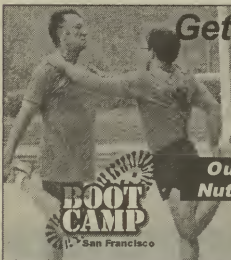
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Media wars

by Jane Warner

1 8th and Castro, February 8, 3:30 p.m.: A man distributing Web site fliers on the corner of Hibernia Beach got into a heated argument with a man next to him who was advertising for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The argument, which began after one of the men asked the other to move, escalated into a pushing match. The first man kicked over the news rack, scattering issues of the *Chronicle*. The second man chased him down the street with an umbrella that was attached to the newspaper stand. Police arrived and separated the two. Both men insisted on pressing charges against each other. They were brought to Mission Station where they mutually filed citizen's arrests and were given citations for court appearances.



Borrowed crime

Market and Noe, February 9, 12:50 a.m.: While stopped at the intersection of Noe and Market, a man noticed a light brown Hyundai sedan following him.

Suddenly the sedan pulled out in front of his car, blocking his path. The driver of the sedan got out and angrily approached his car, screaming, "Fucking faggots!" The suspect reached through the man's car and punched the man's passenger, bruising his cheek, and chipping his tooth. The passenger tried to roll up the window, but the assailant continued to hit him. The driver reached for his cell phone and the suspect—described as a white male, 30-35 years old, 220 pounds, bald, and wearing a light colored shirt—ran back to the Hyundai and fled eastbound on Market. The victims were able to write down the license plate of

the sedan, and police traced it to a rental car company. Officers forwarded their reports to hate crime investigators.

Hit and run

17th and Church, February 9, 3:05 a.m.: While walking eastbound on 17th crossing Church Street, a man was struck on the back of the head by an unknown object. Dazed, the man fell to the sidewalk where he was punched three or four more times by a man who stood over him. Assuming he was being robbed, the victim reached into his pocket and held out \$15 for the suspect. The thief—described as African American, 22-24 years old, wearing all dark clothing—grabbed the money while he continued to rifle through the victim's pockets. In the background the victim could hear another man and a woman yelling, "Hurry up! Hurry up!" The man never saw the accomplices, but he could hear all three suspects run eastbound on 17th Street. Police were unable to locate them. ▼

Cromey to retire from Trinity Episcopal Church

by Joe Dignan

Civil rights leader, gay marriage advocate, author and priest, the Reverend Robert Warren Cromey will retire from Trinity Episcopal Church this Sunday where he has been rector for 20 years.

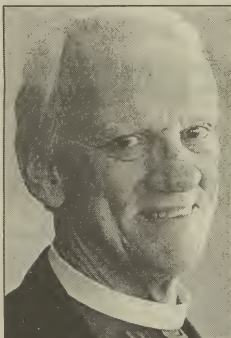
Cromey, who's heterosexual, has been a leader in the struggle for gay civil rights for decades.

"He's one of those people who used their position to make a big difference," said Paul Gabriel of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California. "He saw a tremendous opportunity and made it happen."

Cromey was part of the group of ministers who founded the Council for Religion and the Homosexual in 1964.

That year, the group organized a New Year's Eve costume ball fundraiser at what was then called California Hall at the corner of Polk and Turk. The organizers informed the police that they were having the party, and while the police initially indicated acquiescence, they arrived on the scene to enforce the police code of the day which included a prohibition on same-sex touching.

The police photographed the 700 participants. They arrested



Rev. Robert Warren Cromey

three lawyers and a ticket-taker who were subsequently cleared of all charges. The ensuing protest, which has become known as the California Hall riot, or, simply, San Francisco's Stonewall, was a turning point in the evolution of the gay civil rights movement from the quiet work of "homophile" organizations of the 1950s into a visible national campaign for justice and equality.

"I was there, but the cops wouldn't arrest the priests. We were there with our clerical collars on," said Cromey.

"It's such an incredible thing

they did," said Gabriel. "He was unafraid of extending civil rights to gay people when no one was thinking of doing that."

In 1965 Cromey went, along with the Reverend Cecil Williams and others, to Selma to march with Martin Luther King Jr. Cromey participated in sit-ins on San Francisco's auto row on Van Ness Avenue to protest racial discrimination against blacks and was arrested for his participation.

Cromey and the other ministers saw that the same techniques that the civil rights movement was using might serve the gay rights movement as well.

Cromey has also been an advocate for same-sex marriage. He performed the first Episcopal marriage of a lesbian couple, at his parish, St. Aidan's, in Diamond Heights.

"The bishop forbade me to do these things. Now at Grace Cathedral they do these as part of their ministry. My theory was to keep the pressure on. The church doesn't change until you're doing what you want to do. It's like changing any law," Cromey said.

From 1970-1981 Cromey left the church to do family counseling. He returned in 1981 to head Trinity.

Cromey has written many arti-
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Leno clarifies TG position

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Supervisor and 13 District Assembly candidate Mark Leno last week blasted the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* newspaper, which in its endorsement of Leno's rival in the race, former Supervisor Harry Britt, said that Leno would not "push for transgender rights on the state level."

"They're so maddening," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* Friday, February 8.

As Leno described his meeting with the *Guardian's* editorial board, he accused managing editor Tim Redmond of "flippantly" asking him if he would be "leading the charge" for transgender health benefits if elected to the Assembly. Leno said he told the newspaper that it would not be the first thing he moved forward, and that comment got turned into the blanket "He won't, for example, push transgender rights on the state level" comment in the *Guardian's* endorsement of Britt.

"He twisted it," Leno said of his comment to Redmond's statement. "In the first-100-day anniversary of the new Board of Supervisors last spring, the *Guardian* wrote of me that 'he votes on the side of angels, but he'll never be a crusader.' Then I do the transgender health benefits."

Leno pushed through legislation last spring that allows for medical benefits – including surgery and hormone therapy – for transgender city employees. The measure barely passed with the minimum nine votes needed.

Leno sent the *B.A.R.* a copy of a letter to the editor he wrote to the *Guardian* in which he clarified his position. "There was a misstatement made that I would not be 'pushing for transgender rights' on the state level, while I have, in fact, already been advocating for changes in state law that would benefit the transgender community and will contin-

ue to do so if elected to the Assembly," Leno wrote.

The *Guardian* printed the letter, and Redmond stood by the paper's position in his column this week. Redmond told the *B.A.R.* that he didn't think his question was asked in a flippant manner.

"We were having a friendly meeting," Redmond said.

"When I initially read the comment about Leno my first reaction was that it was laughable," Theresa Sparks, a member of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and Leno supporter, told the *B.A.R.* "Mark Leno is the only politician ever to stand up for transgender rights in San Francisco. He has fought for transgenders when it was neither politically expedient nor terribly popular with his constituents. He did it though because he believed it to be the right thing to do."

Sparks reiterated that she's "absolutely" comfortable with Leno's position.

Some other local transgender activists admitted they were concerned when they saw the statement in the *Guardian*, but that calls to Leno assured them of his

position on transgender rights.

"Given the fact that the *Guardian* didn't give any coverage to the health benefit until after it passed, and then gave it so little coverage at that point – it would seem they saw it as something very trivial – I don't think they have much to stand on now when using it in an attempt to buoy their candidate," said Gwen Smith, a member of the city's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force and the author of the Transmissions column in the *B.A.R.*

Smith said that Leno makes it clear in his letter that he intends to work for some immediate needs affecting the transgender community, many of which were passed on to Leno's office by the task force.

"I will support AB2142, which advances civil rights for the transgender community if I am elected," Leno stated.

Not everyone in the transgender community was persuaded. Robert Haaland, who is managing Britt's campaign, said in a letter to the *B.A.R.* that he was "floored" when he read the *Guardian* piece. ▼

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will host a Community Forum on Substance Use Issues in the Transgender Community on Thursday, Feb. 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at TARC, 187 Golden Gate Ave. in San Francisco.

Miss Major, Patrick Califia-Rice, and Chenoa Blot will be speaking. This is a free event. Come have a snack and share your views.

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STOP AIDS PROJECT

AIDS/HIV Nightline seeks volunteers

by Cynthia Laird

The AIDS/HIV Nightline, operated by San Francisco Suicide Prevention, is seeking volunteers. A training class is scheduled to begin Thursday, February 21.

The nightline provides telephone emotional support, crisis counseling, and information for anyone with HIV or hepatitis C concerns. Volunteers answer approximately 10,000 calls a year from the worried well to the sick and dying. The nightline is the only volunteer service of its kind, and receives calls from throughout the country.

Prospective volunteers should be good listeners who are able to relate to others with caring and understanding. Interested people are asked to help for a few hours each month and are provided with comprehensive training. For more information on becoming a volunteer, call (415) 984-1902.

The nightline number is (415) 434-AIDS, or 1-800-273-AIDS. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

Leno's commitment to TGs

Supervisor Mark Leno, if successful in his bid for the 13th Assembly District seat, unequivocally will be a fighter for transgender rights, no matter how other newspapers attempt to portray him as less than supportive of legislation that would create equal rights for members of the transgender community. Supporters of Leno's chief rival in the race, former Supervisor Harry Britt, have seized upon a statement in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* that said Leno wouldn't push for transgender rights on the state level. Leno told us his words were "twisted" in the interview and that, in fact, he already is advocating for changes in state law that would benefit the transgender community.

We believe him, and so do many members of the transgender community, some of whom pointed out that the weekly alternative newspaper didn't cover Leno's transgender health benefits legislative battle last year at the Board of Supervisors, apparently thinking the matter didn't warrant much notice. Nothing could be further from the truth. The health benefits legislation that Leno got approved with the bare minimum of nine votes had been discussed for years by city officials and went nowhere. It was a long, painful process that finally culminated with last year's victory. As with San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance, the transgender health benefits change may well spur action in other cities; once again, San Francisco leads the way.

One problem with Britt supporters is that while they claim to be behind the "progressive" candidate, Britt has been out of public office for a decade, and yet they refuse to concede that Leno has grown into his job as a supervisor and has, over the past four years, become more progressive himself. He didn't have to push for the transgender health benefits legislation last year (it affects a small number of city workers who probably would have sup-

ported him anyway), Leno took up the legislation because it was the right thing to do.

Leno has spent years cultivating support from the transgender community (a group with which most politicians outside of the Bay Area are still uneasy) and is attacked now because transgender legislation is likely not the first thing on Leno's agenda if he is elected to the Assembly. Assemblywoman Carole Migden, whose seat Leno and Britt are seeking, didn't start out her Sacramento career with a domestic partner registry bill either. In fact, significant legislation is not done overnight, and Leno, we believe, will

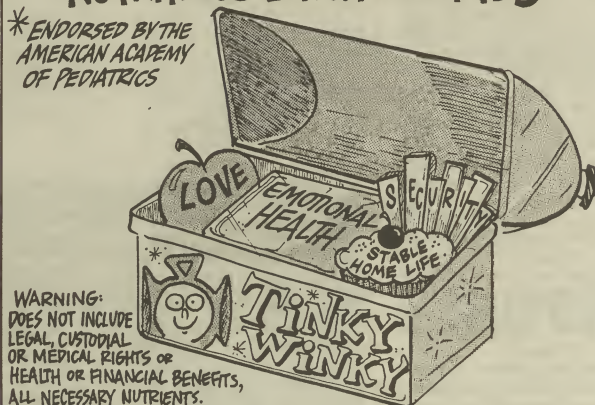
cultivate support among his colleagues so that when it comes time for significant new transgender legislation he will be there.

Right now, if elected, he would support existing legislation benefiting the transgender community.

Britt supporters argue that their candidate will fight for progressive issues and will push the envelope. With Britt's average 21 percent missed vote record while on the Board of Supervisors (more than 6,000 missed votes over 14 years), what good will it be to have Britt championing such causes as repealing the Ellis Act to help tenants and supporting transgender rights if he doesn't show up to vote? ▼



Editorial

THE SAME-SEX COUPLE
NUTRITIOUS LUNCH FOR KIDS**ENDORSED BY THE
AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF PEDIATRICS

Let's talk about marriage

by Mike Marshall
and Toni Broaddus

Now is the time to talk about marriage.

Why? Not because Valentine's Day is today. Not even because Freedom to Marry Day was held two days earlier as an unabashedly queer co-optation of a Hall-mark heterosexual holiday (pun intended).

The time has come to talk about marriage because if you are not heterosexual, your relationship, quite simply, does not count. If the intimate partnership in your life does not include a person of the opposite sex, it is not a partnership fully recognized by any country's social system outside of the Netherlands.

In contrast, heterosexual couples may easily express the primacy of a relationship: they marry. If they choose to forego a religious blessing for their union, they are still entitled to a myriad of legal protections available to no other legal relationship between two individuals. Should they choose not to tie the knot at all, the heterosexual couple will nonetheless be viewed as a legitimate social unit. Indeed, social legitimacy is routinely bestowed upon heterosexual couples simply because they may choose to marry — whether or not they actually wed. After all, even a "live-in" relationship mirrors a marital one — if the parties are of opposite (preferably biological) sex.

The "appropriate" gender of parties to a marriage has historically been assumed and only recently been questioned. Even when marriage meant that women ceased to exist as legal entities, even when marriage was denied to slaves, and even when spouses were required to be of the same race — marriage was still a partnership of one man and one woman. As a result, Americans view marriage as a heterosexual paradigm, and a rather loud noise will be necessary to challenge this heterosexism so that someday, any couple might exchange marriage vows in America.

The LGBT community needs to start making this noise. We need to challenge our friends and neighbors, argue with our co-workers, persuade our legislators. We not only need to be out, we need to be out loud. After all, even avowedly single lesbians and gay men are defined by their intimate relationships to others. Hate the sin and love the sinner — does that sound familiar?

As a lesbian and a gay man, we may be preaching to the choir, but some days we can barely hear the singing outside the doors of the church. Sure we're glad to have hummed our way to domestic partnerships — at least, in some places — but we believe that we deserve equality, and history teaches us that "separate but equal" is inherently unequal. Lesbian and gay couples can draft legal documents, register as domestic partners, and even travel to Vermont, but none of those things will buy all the rights and obligations of marriage. None of those things even comes close to true equality.

True equality is marriage. Domestic partnerships are good, civil unions are exciting — but none of these "separate" institutions comes close to offering lesbian and gay couples the significant rights and benefits associated with marriage. In fact, in California — the state with the third highest number of legal rights extended to same-sex partners — domestic partners have less than 1 percent of the rights bestowed upon married couples. Even in Vermont (where same-sex couples may enter into civil unions) and Hawaii (where such couples may become "reciprocal beneficiaries"), the separate legal status available to lesbians and gay men is not at all affected by over one thousand federal laws that apply to married couples.

This is discrimination, plain and simple. As the group discriminated against, we have to make it clear to the heterosexual majority that we are being discriminated against by our government. If we wish to be equal

American citizens, we must educate the American public. And, as this is no small task, we really should get started.

True equality is within our reach. Believe it or not, 43 percent of California voters polled after the battle over Proposition 22 (the Knight initiative) said that they support civil marriage for lesbian and gay couples. Someday our marriages will be equal to all those other marriages out there. Despite the contrary claims of traditionalists, marriage is not an inflexible institution. After all, women used to become property of their husbands at marriage — and that changed. Africans in America (under the legal system known as slavery) used to be unable to marry at all — and that changed. And for a long time, only same-race couples could marry in many states — and that changed, too.

Now is the time to start the campaign. Talk about same-sex marriage is not something new — but we can build upon the conversations that have occurred in the midst of legislative battles, electoral politics, and litigation strategies. We can seek to engage the public in an honest dialogue about marriage solely for the purpose of education. Undoubtedly marriage rights will continue to be addressed in our courts and by our legislatures — but we need not allow those battles to be the only framework for public discussion.

Now is the time to talk about marriage. Not just for Freedom to Marry Day, but for every day — until the heterosexual majority finally understands. ▼

Now is the time to talk about marriage. Not just for Freedom to Marry Day, but for every day — until the heterosexual majority finally understands. ▼

Mike Marshall and Toni Broaddus recently founded Californians for Civil Marriage, a statewide, five-year public education campaign designed to achieve majority voter support for same-sex marriage. For more information about CCM, visit www.civilmarriage.org.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Leno no 'lightweight'

Last week, Ross Mirkarimi, the press agent for Harry Britt, claimed that Supervisor Mark Leno is a "legislative lightweight" and suggested that his work was mediocre [*"Harry Britt missed 21% of board votes," February 7*]. This has become a bit of a theme for Britt supporters, and as an aide who has helped develop legislation for Mark over the last two years, I want to respond.

I had a fascinating conversation with a Britt supporter one night at a party several months ago where he and I debated the importance of Mark Leno's transgender health benefit. He thought it was a small victory that was destined to pass with the new Board of Supervisors, and I had to tell him that we almost lost the vote and only won through the tenacity of my boss. A nine-vote "super-majority" was required to pass this controversial legislation, and one of the "reform" supervisors almost blocked it by leaving the room at voting time. We would have lost if Mark had not packed the room with supporters and used the sergeant-of-arms to force the supervisor out of his office and into the board chamber for a vote. This was no easy victory.

But worse than having to explain the closeness of the vote and the work that Leno did to get the TG benefit passed, it seems that I had to educate this Britt supporter about why the issue was important. For the past 30 years the transgender community has been fighting with the rest of the queer community for all of our rights. I have come to know many people in the transgender community through our work on this issue — many of them have told me they have waited all their lives for a moment like this. This was not an unimportant or "lightweight" issue for them.

A lot of Mark's work has, in fact, been community-specific. In addition to the transgender and LGB communities he has become the local champion for medical cannabis, bicycle transit, late night dance clubs and entertainment, city car sharing (the little green VW bugs you see driving around town), neighborhood preservation, animal rights, off-leash use where parks can accommodate dogs, and other issues that help a specific community with a specific need. No one should belittle the importance of this work. It shows that Mark is familiar with a variety of community needs.

But Mark has also put forward major pieces of legislation that will benefit us all. No one in the city has put forward as many proposals to create affordable housing in San Francisco as Mark Leno. Proposition B, the solar revenue bond approved by voters last fall, was authored by Mark and will make San Francisco the largest producer of renewable energy in the nation. Almost half of our city will benefit from Mark's equal access ordinance that requires all city departments to translate their materials into Chinese and Spanish, and hire bilingual staff. San Francisco now provides universal health care for children because Mark brought this to the Board of Supervisors and secured the funds for it in his Finance Committee. Mark has taken on the parking and billboard industries and has a record of achievement in environmental activism that is too long to even list here.

Mark has made sweeping achievements at City Hall, he has fought for controversial, visionary things, and he has an awareness of diverse community needs that he fights for every day.

Nathan Purkiss
San Francisco

Leno TG flap

Last year, I was proud that the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club committed our full resources to fight alongside Supervisor Leno for equal health benefits for transgendered city employees. It was that experience that led me to write a letter to the *Examiner* a few months ago declaring that with both Leno and Britt in the race for the assembly, the LGBT community had an embarrassment of riches from which to choose. Today, however, Leno's own statements have proven me wrong.

Supervisor Leno has declared that in the Assembly, he would not fight for transgender rights at the state level. After reading this in the *Bay Guardian*, I called and confirmed that Leno actually made that statement to their entire editorial board. I am stunned.

I suspected that Leno could not be trusted to push the envelope while surrounded by moderates and conservatives in Sacramento, but I thought his "go along to get along" approach would be limited to issues like transportation, housing, and health care. Now it is clear that Leno will not even fight to push the envelope on the core issues of the LGBT community, such as transgender rights.

And where is the B.A.R. story covering this? I guess that story was dropped to make room for the glowing story describing Leno's attendance and voting record.

We don't need someone in Sacramento who believes his main duty is to vote on other assembly-member's legislation. We need someone who will push and fight for San Francisco priorities from the minute they walk in the door. Harry Britt did just that

when he pushed domestic partners for 10 years until passed by the Board of Supervisors. He will do the same for transgendered rights and other crucial progressive issues in Sacramento. Vote Britt March 5.

Jerry Threet
San Francisco

More on TG flap

As the campaign manager for Harry Britt and as a transgender man, I was floored when I read that Supervisor Leno will not push for transgender rights in Sacramento. I had assumed that both candidates would promote transgender rights. In fact, the first time I met with Harry, he immediately told me that he was deeply committed to pushing our agenda, particularly non-discrimination laws. Since I then thought both candidates were committed to promoting our rights, I looked at other issues that made them different. It became clear to me that Harry was the clear choice for progressives and decided to work for him.

It's fair to say that I now believe I should have asked the same of Leno and I was foolish not to ask. I am proud to be running Harry's campaign and hope that whoever wins realizes that we need to move this agenda, and many other progressive causes, forward in Sacramento.

Robert Haaland
San Francisco

Unfair Leno attacks

Let me see if I understand this — candidate Harry Britt says to Mark Leno "you younger guys spread disease," first denies it, later recants (there were witnesses), and then gets belligerent with those who suggest he should apologize. Britt and his cronies then attempt to turn our community upside down with accusations of sleazy campaigning, he literally runs from Hank Plante's KPIX camera, falling upstairs trying to avoid the camera before Hank even asked him a question, and then sheepishly states on Michael Krasny's Forum KQED radio show on January 31 (www.kqed.com/forum) that "I may have said something dumb."

Yes Harry, you said something dumb. No one thinks you are AIDS-phobic. You should have admitted the truth early on and apologized so we all could have proceeded to an old-fashioned debate of the issues.

But instead, Harry Britt and his supporters have effectively coordinated an effort to transform Britt from the perpetrator of this offense into the victim. This sadly reminds me of the name calling in the 2000 supervisory campaign when members of the "puritanical left" referred to Leno supporters as Nazis. Consider the significance of referring to supporters of gay Jewish Mark Leno as Nazis. These people do not understand the significance of the pink triangle or of the yellow Star of David.

Perhaps the saddest aspect of this whole episode is watching Harry Britt, once considered a respected elder statesman in the LGBT community, being used by others who want to defeat Mark Leno because they cannot control him. Mark Leno's independence is evidenced by Willie Brown's efforts in behalf of Steve Phillips and Holli Thier in hopes that they will siphon enough votes from Mark Leno to enable a victory by Harry Britt. Mayor Brown's main objective is to punish Mark Leno for his independence. When it's all over, Harry Britt will return to teaching (stripped of his elder statesman status) and Mark Leno will head to Sacramento as the most independent assembly-member from this district in a very long time.

I was optimistic when this campaign began that it would be about issues affecting our future. I have hesitated to join in the fray because I dislike that so much of San Francisco politics is so intensely personal.

But I could not remain silent in the face of the unfair attacks by the Britt campaign. Rob Morse said it best in his column in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on February 4: "Why is Leno suffering unkind cuts? Well, he's pleasant, a coalition-builder, a successful small-business man, a champion of good causes, and he doesn't seem to have a mean bone in his body. We can't have that in this town." Things are changing in this town and we will demonstrate on March 5 that a nice guy like Mark Leno can finish first.

Rich Kowalewski
San Francisco

Leno's votes egregious

In response to your recent article on Harry Britt's votes, I would like to point out some of Mark Leno's votes that were so egregious that I have decided to support Harry Britt for state Assembly.

Leno stood up for big landlords in support a \$300 million pass-through to tenants, refused to support an initiative that would have stopped seniors and people with disabilities from being evicted, stood up with the mayor and big banks to block ATM reform, attempted to revoke labor union rights to card-check neutrality, obstructed passage of the living wage or-

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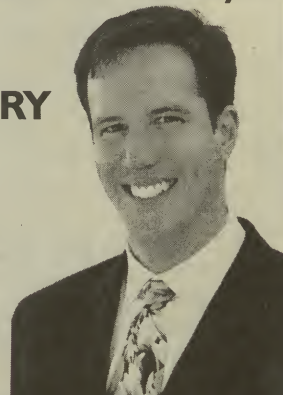
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dance, and refused to support Proposition G, the sunshine (open government) initiative.

Harry will be an effective legislator on the issues I care about. He is the most pro-tenant, pro-consumer, and pro-labor candidate in the race.

Rebecca Logue-Bovee
San Francisco

Wonderful acknowledgment

In response to your article on the campus of the new LGBT center being named after Chuck Holmes ["Center to be named after Falcon Studios founder," January 31], I am happy to see that an individual who made a considerable amount of his wealth from queer communities understood the need to give back to those same communities. Mr. Holmes was a quiet philanthropist in our community for decades and funded many organizations that most foundations wouldn't touch. His support helped build an infrastructure to respond to HIV/AIDS and built up LGBT organizations. Naming the new campus of the San Francisco LGBT center after him is a wonderful acknowledgment of this legacy of giving back to the community.

Robert Perez
San Francisco

Money talks

I think that Chuck Holmes offered something very important to the gay male community worldwide, however, I do not think the community center should be named after him because of a million dollar donation. There are many, many important people who deserve to have their names reflected on the center. People who have given their money, time, political aspirations and their lives. People who are true heroes within our community.

But, alas, once again our self-esteem as gay men goes only as high as honoring someone who made money via legal prostitution, drugs, and leading many male models down the road to nowhere while his bank account became fatter. Yes, this is someone I truly want to reflect our community center ... not!

There are better men and women who deserve this honor. Why couldn't we just have named it the San Francisco GLTB Community Center and leave well enough alone?

Steven Keller
San Francisco

Women have long helped gays

Tony Reynolds wrote to gripe that Stop AIDS should not be headed by "someone not from the 'targeted community'" — a woman, in fact [Mailstrom, January 31].

Perhaps he was not around San Francisco 10 years ago, when gay men reeled from grief fatigue: so many friends sick, so little time to recover; too many "Did you hear about..." messages and way too many memorial services to attend. Or perhaps he was there but forgot that in the midst of all that, with the government leering at us in the background, it was women who stepped in to help us, to be with us, to nurse us and yes, to work in AIDS organizations.

Many of them were gay women. For a lot of gay men, this was the first time we realized that we were actually part of a queer community bigger than ourselves.

Stop AIDS Project is not "charged with organizing the gay and bisexual men's community" — we all are. Most importantly it serves as a catalyst to help us look at where danger comes from within our own ranks, then help us to see that without feelings of overwhelming guilt, so we can change how we love. If a woman is willing to help figure out how to do that emotionally difficult job, more power to her.

I think we can applaud the selection of Darlene Weide to head Stop AIDS, and take a moment to thank the other women who have stepped up to our side in the last few decades. I look forward to the time when gay male commitment to fighting breast and uterine cancer (now afflicting one in seven women in some communities) is as great.

Mark Freeman
San Francisco

Weide is right choice

I am frustrated and disappointed by Tony Reynolds's letter to the B.A.R., published on January 31. Mr. Reynolds made a number of erroneous assumptions in order to bolster his criticism of our decision to hire Darlene Weide as executive director of the Stop AIDS Project.

First of all, the recruiting was done by a volunteer ad hoc committee composed of three board members, two staff people, and two community members. The board and staff, ever vigilant of our budget, kept any outside costs to a bare minimum.

Secondly, and more importantly, on the question of our commitment to gay and bisexual men in our community: We feel so strongly about their value and

worth that we have made gay and bi men the specific focus of our agency's mission. To that end, we work very hard to provide the most effective programs that gay and bi men want and need in order to stay healthy and alive. Programs which, incidentally, Ms. Weide either developed or helped develop during her four years' experience at the agency.

I fear that Mr. Reynolds's real problem with the new ED is merely that she's a woman. Perhaps Mr. Reynolds was not aware that Ms. Weide has worked in HIV prevention for more than 15 years as an activist and organizer, educator, and program manager. She brings to the agency a strong background in public health — she has an MPH and MSW, two qualifications not mentioned in Mr. Reynolds's letter. She also served as the interim co-director at Stop AIDS since July 2001.

As far as I am concerned, hiring the most qualified person for the job demonstrates our ability to both recognize and exhibit competency and efficiency. Our job description demanded experience, education, and leadership skills — all of which we found in Ms. Weide.

I myself, as an openly gay Mexican civil engineer, working in a field which is still very conservative and staid, have appreciated being valued and evaluated for my qualifications and job performance and not for my race or sexual orientation. How ironic then that this issue of sexual bias should come from a member of the "queerest town," which in my opinion should be more sensitive to discrimination of any kind.

At a time when prevention strategies must be more vigilant than ever against attack, it is crucial that we have an articulate, highly qualified leader to promote the innovative and successful work Stop AIDS has done and will continue to do. I can say without hesitation that Ms. Weide is that leader.

Jorge Romero-Lozano, Board President
Stop AIDS Project

Friday's reality check

I've noticed a change in "Our Man Friday" columnist Wayne Friday's method of writing and wanted to congratulate him and you. For the last several issues he has dropped the rabidly partisan progressive Democrat point of view and now seems to believe that Republicans have a right to live.

We all are people first and gay secondarily. We all have interests that have no bearing on our sexual orientation and friends and relatives who's interests we support even though those interests have nothing to do with being gay. Congratulation on this sudden reality check on the part of "Our Man Friday."

Jim Keefer
San Francisco

Now and Zen

I write with concern. As a 15-year veteran of Hartford Street Zen Center with a lot of Zen under the belt, I'm surprised, I'm rocked, I'm dismayed. So I'm inviting the Castro community to consider the real life-and-death issues facing Hartford Street Zen Center.

Admittedly, there have been big changes at Hartford Street since the time of Issan Dorsey, the famed ex-hooker and ex-drag queen whose energy made the place explode 10 years ago. Issan definitely brought queer Zen culture with him. But the ordinary gay Castro denizens then made it prosper with blood, sweat, tears, and money. Now things are different. We're dying on the vine. The center's governing board is "reconsidering" the policy of our center's queer orientation. But should this happen without public discussion, or without the queer community's input?

A combination of problems brought us to this horrible pass. There may be remedies, but first there has to be some public discussion of all this. But like the Enron board's reluctance to go public, the Hartford Street Zen Center's board is also digging in its heels. Why?

Well, for one thing, it looks more and more like the center's gay board members are being systematically replaced by straight ones; some of them are supportive of gay identity, others are not. There have been repeated slurs on "gay male culture" being "sleazy." Recently someone put up a big gay flag that was promptly torn down by another member. For the time being there's a tiny flag replacement but how long is that going to stay there?

And what about the talk of disbanding the center in six months or so if the money runs out? Some members want to give away the place to a straight-oriented monk or to a straight-oriented Zen chapter. This is crazy. Gay money built the place. Shouldn't the Castro community be consulted before giving away the store? Couldn't we hold a public meeting and see what the gay community thinks?

I've been told not to wash the center's dirty laundry in public, to try to be a team player. I don't buy that. What team are we on? Is it just a center for the board or does it include the Castro community as part of the team?

Issan said, "We're here to provide a Buddhist presence in the Castro." I invite public consideration of this by the board and the community.

Bruce Boone
San Francisco

POLITICS

State GOP at an ideological crossroads

by Wayne Friday

The state Republican convention held this past weekend in San Jose once again highlighted what has long been the main problem for the California Republican Party. Former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** came away from the three-day convention bruised and battered, but still the front-runner for the party's gubernatorial nomination in the March 5 primary.

The weekend GOP convention showed that the contest for the nomination is once again coming down to a battle between Republican idealists and party pragmatists. While even some of the GOP conservatives acknowledge their best chance of defeating incumbent Democratic Governor **Gray Davis** lies with Riordan, many of them simply find him far too "liberal" for their tastes and are indicating that they might sit out the November general election if he emerges as the nominee.

The Republicans at last weekend's convention were met with the choice of swallowing their long-held conservative views and going with a maverick Republican with liberal views they strongly disagree with but who appeals to many independent and Democratic voters, or going with a conservative candidate like California Secretary of State **Bill Jones** or millionaire businessman **William E. Simon**, both of whom would be more to their liking but would have a difficult time of landing the necessary Democratic crossover and independent votes needed to defeat Davis.

While the state GOP leaders grappled with the endorsement process, the intellectual debate exploded when the three GOP candidates debated before more than 1,200 of the party faithful. As one observer put it, Riordan, the acknowledged front-runner among the three, "landed like a hand grenade among the party faithful" who clearly prefer a more conservative Jones or Simon. Indeed, one of the party's elder statesmen, former Governor **George Deukmejian**, still very popular with state Republicans, held a press conference to state flatly that he would in no way consider voting for Riordan in November if he were the party's nominee.

Clearly, the core of the state GOP still sees Riordan as a traitor for having donated tens of thousands to state and national Democratic candidates over the years, including having once loaned \$500,000 to **Tom Bradley**, a Democrat, when he was running against Deukmejian in 1982. Hundreds of delegates tagged Riordan as a RINO (Republican in name only) at the San Jose convention, and even featured enlarged photos of Riordan with his arm around Gray Davis, also a recipient of a past Riordan campaign donation.

A straw vote held among the 1,200 party activists on Saturday showed that Riordan, while still ahead in public opinion polls (Simon continues to gain) lost badly among those attending the

convention. Simon won the straw poll, taking 40 percent, Jones came in second with 32 percent, and Riordan last with only 28 percent. Sensing that he was wasting his time with the Republican faithful, Riordan held a reception for his backers Saturday night and then promptly flew back to Los Angeles, missing the closing day of the confab. One longtime political writer from Los Angeles, who has followed Riordan's career in City Hall as well as his campaign for governor, was telling reporters in San Jose that Simon, along with help from Gray Davis's television ads attacking Riordan, is gaining to the point he (Simon) could very possibly end up the Republican nominee on March 5.

Politics and people

Sacramento observers say that **Steve Westly** has a good lead over Board of Equalization mem-

ber **Johan Klehs** for the Democratic nomination to succeed retiring Controller **Kathleen Connell**. Incidentally, how about this one: in Chicago, it has long been known that the dead still vote. Apparently, in California, some

even endorse. Klehs's Web site touts the endorsement of former Board of Equalization member **Richard Nevins**, who not only retired in 1985, but died last July at age 80.

But in real endorsement news, Democratic Governor Gray Davis picked up a surprise one last week: Merced County District Attorney **Gordon Spencer**, a Republican.

And those watching the statewide contests are also saying that both **Kevin Shelley** and **Michela Alioto** will have to pull something big (and fast) out of the hat if either are to overtake the lead that former California Secretary of State **March Fong Eu** holds for that nomination next month. Shelley is definitely the one to vote for in that one, folks.

The race among Democratic candidates **Mark Leno**, **Steve Phillips**, **Harry Britt**, and **Holli Thier** in San Francisco's 13th Assembly District is getting hot and heavy. Last weekend saw Leno appearing everywhere - Chinatown, Bayview, Polk Strasse, the Tenderloin - while Britt appeared pretty much camped out at the corner of 18th and Castro. Polls favor Leno in this one, and it could tighten up somewhat, but from where I sit, Leno is the heads up choice in this race. Okay, so this isn't going to come as any surprise, but do it - vote Mark Leno for Assembly on March 5; they don't come any better.

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club will hold its annual Alice Awards reception on Wednesday, February 20, 6-8 pm, at the new LGBT Community Center (1800 Market Street). The reception will honor new City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** and recently re-elected Treasurer **Susan Leal**, and will present the Legislator of the Year Award to Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, the Community Service Award to Human Rights Commissioner (and Alice co-chair) **Theresa Sparks**, and the club will recognize three gay men running for the California

Assembly: **Mark Leno**, **John Laird** of Santa Cruz, and **Greg Pettis** of Palm Springs (\$100 donation; 415-241-9913 for info).

City Hall observers are already predicting a bitter runoff campaign, if, as expected, there is no winner in next month's race for assessor and the top two votegetters are incumbent **Doris Ward** and challenger **Mabel Teng**.

The California Democratic Party is holding its state convention this weekend at the Boneventure Hotel in Los Angeles and at least three 2004 Democratic presidential hopefuls will be in attendance: Senate Majority Leader **Tom Daschle** (South Dakota), Senator **John Kerry** (Massachusetts) and Senator **John Edwards** (North Carolina); new House Democratic Minority Whip Representative **Nancy Pelosi** will have a featured role at the weekend convention.

Did Representative **Barbara Lee** (D-Oakland) know what she was doing when she became the only House member last year to vote against authorizing military action following the September 11 terrorist attacks? According to campaign records, the liberal Lee has pulled in nearly \$180,000 in campaign funds since her controversial 420-1 vote, more than twice what she typically raises.

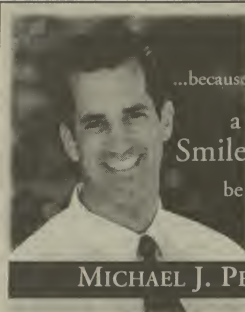
It's musical chairs time again in the state Assembly and new Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) last week appointed Assemblyman **Darrell Steinberg** (D-Sacramento) to replace term-out **Carole Migden** as chair of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee, effective March 11. Wesson, only the second black to head the Assembly (after our very own **Willie Brown**) also appointed lesbian Assemblywoman **Christine Kehoe** (San Diego) to become the next Assembly speaker pro tempore after the current speaker pro tem, **Fred Keeley** of Santa Cruz, leaves office at the end of this year.

Celebs news: **Richard Hatch**, the insufferable and oh so obnoxious openly gay original million-dollar *Survivor* winner has won again. Hatch was found not guilty last week of assaulting his ex-boyfriend in a ruling that overturned an earlier conviction. Hatch, you may recall, was found guilty last September after he got into a fight on the steps of his Midletown, Rhode Island, home with former lover **Glenn Boyanowski**. Hatch appealed, arguing that Boyanowski, 30, was trespassing. After a hearing last week, Superior Court Judge **Daniel Precaccini** overturned the conviction.

Yet another celebrity, TV's "Queen of Nice" **Rosie O'Donnell**, reportedly finally comes out of the closet in her new memoir, *Find Me*, due to be released in April (and doesn't that come as a shock?).

And finally, my "quote of the week" (from *Newsweek*): "I saw the goat the next day - it did not seem too upset, but it is difficult to tell." (A police officer in Humberstone, England, who was inundated with phone calls when a trainload of commuters witnessed a farmer having sex with the grazing farm animal.) A British paper reported that the man self-identified as gay.

And how was your week? ▼



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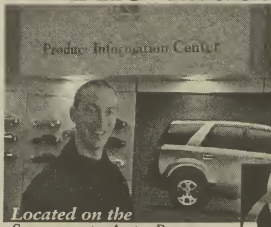
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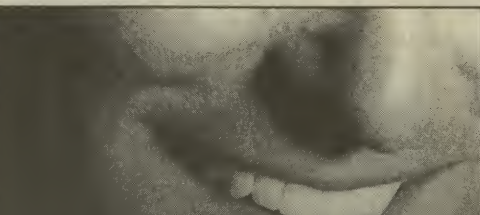
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Race matters – and not just in February

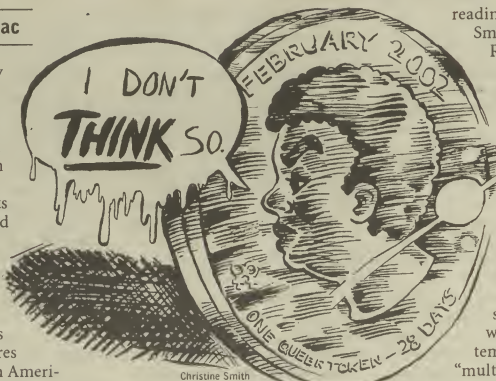
by Paula Martinac

It's Black History Month again, the time when many white-dominated lesbian and gay groups plan "multicultural" events and activists expound on the need for "diversity" in our community. The mostly white gay press, too, suddenly makes more room in its pages for features about queer African Americans. But what if we aspired to be a truly anti-racist community, not one that just gives space to racial issues one month out of the year?

That's a radical question – not one this white lesbian feminist came up with, but one that's been ruminated on by gay and lesbian activists of different races for many years. The problem is, the white gay community has never put forward viable answers, and I'm not sure we're coming any closer to doing so.

I don't want to suggest that neo-Nazi-style racism – calling African Americans "niggers," for example – is widespread in the lesbian and gay community. Quite the contrary. Like liberal straight people who wouldn't dream of calling a gay man a "faggot," many white gay men and lesbians would, I'm sure, be horrified by obvious displays of racial bigotry.

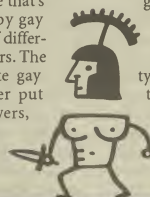
White gay racism is instead of a much more "benign" nature. In an interview last year for *Gay.com*, activist Phill Wilson told David Mixner that "no one has ever come up to me and called me a



Christine Smith

name to my face."

Racism among gay people, Wilson said, is "subtler." As an example, he noted that, although he has worked for years in many areas of gay and AIDS organizing, he is "rarely called upon to address nonracial issues." He also pointed to the difficulty of getting white gay donors to support programs and organizations that are specifically focused on gays of color.



Lesbian Notions

A fundamental problem, I believe, is that too many white gay people tend to ignore our own race. We rarely think about the fact that our whiteness often determines where we live, what kinds of jobs we hold, and which people we have access to. Race, we seem to think, isn't about us; it's about other people – "people of color." In our world view, white people don't have race; they just are.

Consider this example: Many gay and straight publications are in the habit of only specifying the race of people who are nonwhite. We might read, for instance, about "Joe Jones, a novelist" who did a

reading with "John Smith, a black poet."

Readers are supposed to know instinctively from this that Joe Jones is, of course, white. Why? Because whiteness is commonly viewed by white people as the "norm."

When we start out from that assumption, it's no wonder that attempts at fostering "multiculturalism" and "diversity" in the lesbian

and gay community often go badly awry, ending up in mere tokenism.

It's no wonder, too, that gay and straight conservatives find the mostly liberal gay community such an easy target for being too "politically correct." Conservative writers like Stephen H. Miller have for years bemoaned "the relentless demand for more diversity" in the gay movement. In a strange way, the conservatives among us seem to grasp better than the liberals that the push for diversity from the white gay left is often superficial.

To demonstrate this superficiality more clearly, let's make a comparison with the many well-meaning heterosexuals who consider themselves supportive of gay people, but are only selectively so. Your straight boss might, for example, invite your partner to the office holiday party – but then provide medical benefits only to heterosexual spouses because of the "expense." Your cousin might expect you and your partner at her wedding – but then not show up for your civil union ceremony because she "couldn't get away." Or your best straight girlfriend, with whom you watch *Will & Grace* every week, might beg off if you ask her to join you for a gay-rights rally.

Straight people also like to fit us into neat gay slots. A few years ago, I applied for a job as a creative writing instructor at a college. The straight, white, liberal man who interviewed me said he was impressed with my credentials, which were more extensive than those of some of the teachers he currently employed. "But we have no call for someone to teach lesbian writing," he said, concluding the interview. When I said I wanted to teach writing, not lesbian writing, he seemed baffled and said he'd let me know. I never heard from him again.

It would be great if during Black History Month, the white gay community could focus less on dealing with racial difference superficially and cosmetically, like inviting more black speakers to our groups or running more photos of blacks in our publications. Instead, we could look more closely at substance – how our skin color has affected our lives and created a community in which "we" almost always means white. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com.

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HISTORY LESSON

Who was Audre Lorde?

by Paula Martinac

February 18, 1934 (68 years ago this month): Renowned poet Audre Lorde is born in Harlem.

As a black lesbian, Audre Lorde saw herself as a "sister outsider" — someone who was both a part of the feminist and lesbian communities and also outside of them. Despite this, her writings — particularly on the connections among oppressed people — continue to influence both feminists and the gay left.

Lorde was born in 1934 in Harlem to working-class parents who had immigrated from the West Indies. Severely nearsighted, she began wearing glasses at around the age of 4. Lorde later remarked that her near-blindness gave her a love of spoken language, especially poetry. "Words would get me high," she noted.

It was a short step to writing her own poetry, which Lorde began to do as a high school student. Although the school paper rejected one of her poems as "too romantic," Lorde submitted it to *Seventeen* magazine, where it was published in 1951.

In high school, Lorde discovered not only her writing ambitions, but also her lesbian leanings. Her circle of friends called themselves "The Branded" and included a girl named Gennie, Lorde's first love. Sadly, Gennie was a victim of sexual abuse and committed suicide when the girls were only 15.

Soon after graduation, Lorde decided to leave home, having tired of frequent fights with her parents and sister about her friends. Working odd jobs, she was able to rent a small, inexpensive apartment on the Lower East Side.

Lorde spent much of her free time in Greenwich Village, seeking out other "gay girls." It was hard to meet women anywhere but at bars, and Lorde didn't drink or identify as butch or femme. "Being young and Black and gay and lonely," Lorde wrote in her biomythography, *Zami*, "was purely hell." Most of her friends and lovers were white. "I remember thinking for a while that I was the only black lesbian living in the Village."

A trip to Mexico in 1954 helped further Lorde's growing self-awareness of herself as a "sister outsider" back home. "Wherever I went there were brown faces of every hue meeting mine," she later recalled, "and seeing my own color reflected upon the streets in such great numbers was an affirmation for me that was brand-new and very exciting."

After graduating from Hunter College, Lorde went on to earn a master's in library science and to work in public and school libraries. She shocked her friends by marrying Edwin Ashley



Audre Lorde

Rollins, a white lawyer, in 1962. The invisibility of being black, feminist, and lesbian, she later explained, was difficult to deal with. The couple had two children before divorcing in 1970.

Toward the end of her marriage, Lorde began to achieve fame as a poet, with her first collection published in 1968 after a residency at Tougaloo College in Mississippi.

There she met Frances Clayton, a white woman who became her partner for the next 19 years and helped raise her children. Soon Lorde made the move not only to living as a lesbian, but to switching careers and becoming a teacher. After stints at several New York colleges, she eventually secured a prestigious professorship at her alma mater, Hunter.

The 1970s and 1980s were the heyday of Lorde's writing, which included essays as well as poems. After her first overtly lesbian poem, "Martha," appeared in 1970, she went on to publish widely, including such now-classic titles as *Between Ourselves* (1976), *The Black Unicorn* (1978), and *Sister Outsider* (1984). A nomination for the National Book Award in 1974 (the same year as Adrienne Rich and Alice Walker) helped secure her a mainstream publisher, W.W. Norton, and brought her work to a wider audience.

Lorde's writing became increasingly political over time. In her essays in particular, she confronted

what she viewed as interconnected social ills — racism, sexism, and homophobia. Her ideas had a great impact both on feminists and on gay leftists, who today continue to emphasize the connections among different kinds of oppressions.

Another major concern of hers was speaking out against society's silencing of marginalized people. But she also warned against oppressed people silencing themselves out of fear. "In the cause of silence," she wrote, "each one of us draws the face of her own fear — fear of contempt, of censure, of some judgment, ... of challenge, of annihilation."

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1978, Lorde began a 14-year period of writing about her battle with the disease. *The Cancer Journals* (1980) and *A Burst of Light* (1988) both recorded her struggles. "Batting cancer," she told an interviewer, "is very, very much to me like battling racism, like battling sexism. I often visualize ... cancer cells as white South African policemen."

By 1984 cancer had spread to Lorde's liver. She sought out experimental treatments in Europe and moved with Gloria Joseph, the partner of her final years, to the Caribbean island of St. Croix for a more beneficial climate. Still, she continued to write and publish until the very end of her life. One of her last honors was being named the poet laureate of New York state in 1991 by Governor Mario Cuomo.

Lorde lost her fight with cancer on November 17, 1992, and her life, activism, and body of work were celebrated at a packed memorial service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. Her legacy as one of the leading voices of feminism continues in her writing, especially her poetry, which she viewed as "art ... [that] is most subversive because it is in the business of encouraging change." ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached at POcolumn@aol.com.

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SF Democratic club names first TG co-chair

by Matthew S. Bajko

The nation's oldest queer Democratic club elected its first transgender co-chair this week. According to club officials, it is one of the few times a transgender has led a Democratic club in the country and is a first for San Francisco.

The Alice B. Toklas Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Democratic Club voted unanimously at its meeting Monday, February 11 to elect Theresa Sparks as its co-chair. She described her ascent as co-chair of the Alice Club as only a small step in the advancement of the transgender community.

"It is not a huge step," said Sparks. "The transgender community today is where the lesbian and gay movement was 20 years ago. We deal in increments and this is incremental."

By stepping into her new position, Sparks aims to attract more women to become active in the club. She also wants to build a new progressive coalition of moderates in the city.

"With the mayor terming out and a change in leadership in the Assembly this year, there is a real political vacuum forming in San Francisco," said Sparks, a finance manager at Open Enterprises Cooperative Inc. "Over the next two years, it will be important for the



Alice Club co-chair Theresa Sparks

future of this city that this vacuum be filled with leaders who build coalitions."

Sparks will serve alongside Paul Hogan, who has been the club's chair since January 2001. Hogan said he welcomed having Sparks as his co-chair.

"I couldn't imagine anyone better qualified than Theresa to help lead Alice into a very busy and contentious election cycle. She has been an invaluable member of our executive board and instrumental in Alice's legislative and electoral successes in 2001," said Hogan. "I think we will make a dynamic and effective team."

Sparks is running for a seat on

the Democratic Central Committee in the March 5 primary and hopes to make history again by becoming the first transgender elected to any office by the voters of San Francisco.

"I think it is showing that the transgender community is emerging. It is emerging in the political arena," she said of her newfound political role. "The transgender community needs people they could look to almost as role models. In the last two years, we have shown or seen more of us open and publicly involved in the community. We have seen a comfort level emerge from people on the street."

Another transgender activist, Vicky Kolakowski, served as president of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club from 1991-94.

A member of the city's Human Rights Commission, Sparks serves as chair of the commission's issues committee and as vice chair of the LGBT advisory committee. In 2000, the Board of Supervisors appointed her to the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. She has lived in San Francisco off and on for 20 years, permanently relocating here in 1996.

"My highest priorities will be to increase membership in the club and to expand Alice's already strong grass roots approach," said Sparks. "We should embrace and

page 15 ►

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Funding has been made available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department under the Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990 as amended.



Milk Club elects first female president in years

by Katie Szymanski

Debra Walker has a few challenges on her hands.

Walker is the first woman since the mid-1990s to be elected as president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Elections took place at the Milk Club meeting on January 22, ushering in a host of new leaders committed to progressive politics.

Walker will take her position to heart, she said, and dedicate herself toward building a progressive movement that really does include representation at every level. But in doing so, she acknowledged, one must recognize that progressive politics are trendy again in San Francisco, which means liberal-minded folks are using the p-word despite their lack of support of true progressive measures.

It will be up to Walker and her new board, therefore, to devise strategies for harnessing the energies within the housing, justice, and racial equality movements, and bring them together with the queer progressive establishment, which despite its best intentions remains dominated by whites and men.

"It's true for politics in general," said Walker of the lack of diversity in "place at the table" organizations. Although progressive street actions tend to draw an impressive mix of people of all colors



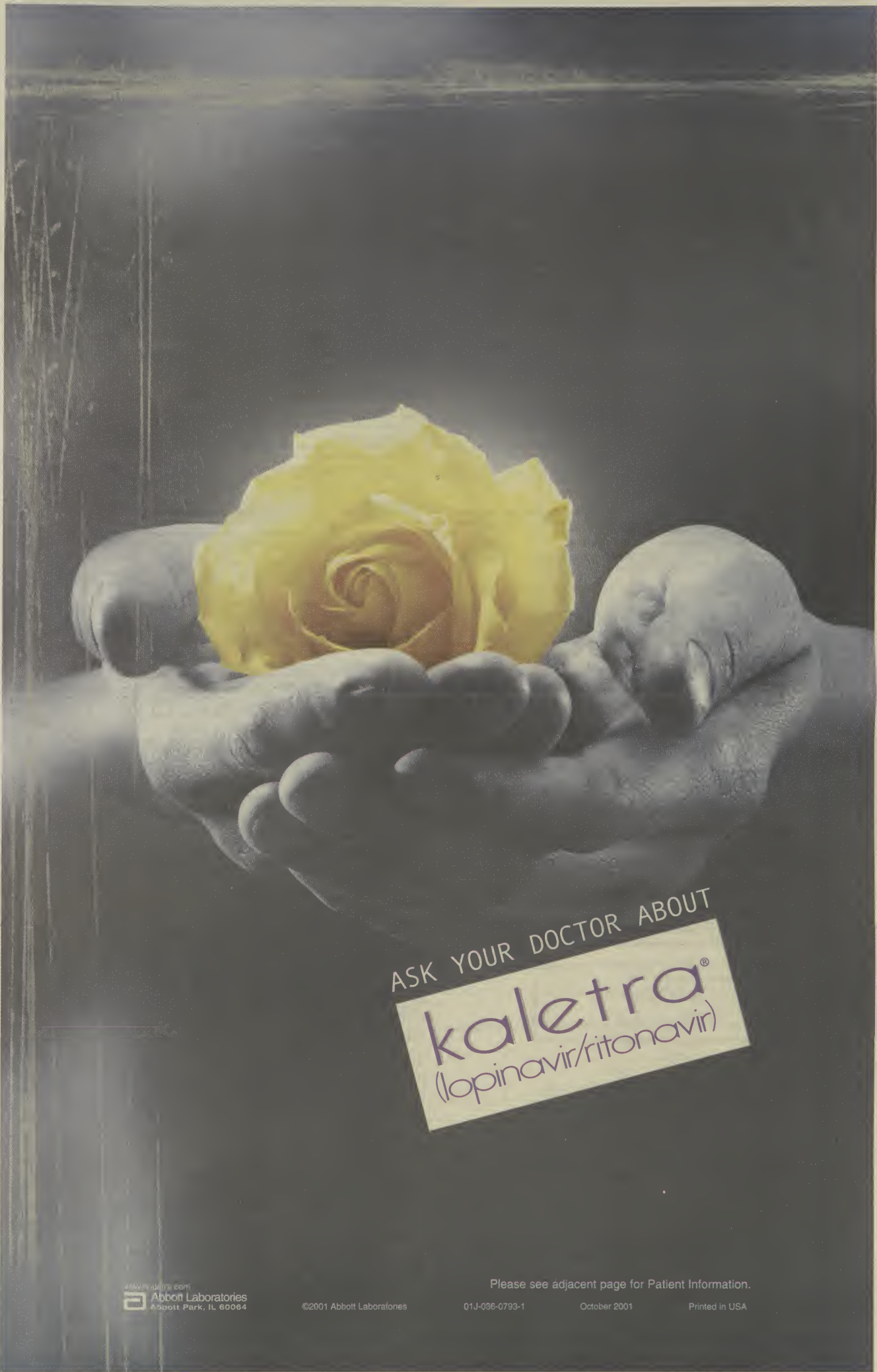
Milk Club President Debra Walker

and sexualities, more mainstream political forums such as Democratic clubs do not do the same.

"They're all out there in trenches fighting these battles but when it comes to incorporating more marginalized populations into the mainstream effort no one wants to show up," said Walker. "There have got to be reasons behind that, and we've got to start paying attention to these issues or they won't change."

For Walker, joining the Democratic discussion came easy, as "These politics are going to happen anyway," she said, "so I may as well be there to help shape the conversation."

The 48-year-old visual artist by
 page 15 ►



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(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

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(kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
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Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA.

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA:
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Hismanal® (astemizole)
Orap® (pimozide)
Propulsid® (cisapride)
Rythmol® (propafenone)
Seldane® (terfenadine)
Tambocor™ (flecainide)
Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St.

John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.

- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

- **Other Special Considerations:**
KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- **If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:**
Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.
- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat happen in some patients getting anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast and abdomen (stomach area). Loss of fat from the face, legs, and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- **If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- **If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- **If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- **If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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OBITUARIES

Bruce Castner



We lost a very dear friend on Saturday, February 2nd, 2002. Bruce Castner passed peacefully while sleeping and was suddenly taken from us. He was loved and we will miss him.

Bruce, a native of Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a B.S. in Political Science and a minor in Psychology. He served in the U.S. Navy as an Intelligence Officer. He was a Democratic nominee for State Senate in New Hampshire, as well as a delegate of the State Democratic convention. Bruce worked with youth programs both on the east and west coasts. He was a member and Chairman of the Lakes Region Youth Home and Council of Exceptional Children.

After moving to San Francisco in 1987, Bruce started bartending at Reflections on Polk St., where he worked for the last fourteen and a half years.

A Celebration of Bruce's Life will be held at Reflections on Sunday, February 17 at 2 p.m.

René Richard



René Richard, 47, of San Francisco passed away on February 4, 2002. René was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and lived in San Francisco for 20 years. He loved most sports, especially baseball and

football. René played softball in the San Francisco Gay Softball League and also served as an umpire. He traveled the country and made a point to visit every state. Riding his Harley Davidson Sportster was another favorite pastime. He will be sorely missed by his many friends, family and loved ones. René will be especially missed by his partner, Michael Lucas.

There will be a Celebration of Life in his honor at MCC SE, 150 Eureka St., on Wednesday, February 20th at 8pm. Do-

nations in his honor may be sent to The Harvey Milk School Tolerance Fund, 4235 19th St., SE, CA 94114.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Cromey

◀ page 4

cles and a book, *In God's Image, Christian Witness to the Need for Lesbian/Gay Equality in the Eyes of the Church*.

His last service will be at 11 a.m. this Sunday, February 17. The church is located at 1668 Bush Street.

"There will be lunch afterward

and speeches and apparently some surprises I don't know about. Everyone is invited," he said.

Cromey, whose 71st birthday will be on the day before his retirement, will return to his family therapy practice and continue to write.

"I'm regarded as an old fart now. I'm really passé. The church is on a denominational level since the 1960s have pulled out and no longer finance people like the in-

dependent clergy that they had in the city doing social service and social activism," he said.

But Cromey remains politically active. His life has been dedicated to civil rights and equality for disenfranchised people. "It was something I felt called to do," he said. "It was very difficult, but it was exhilarating to be way out on the edge. We were proud to have the opportunity to make a substantial change in the society." ▼

Alice Club

◀ page 12

celebrate our reputation as a centrist, coalition-building political organization because real solutions are not found in the extremist elements in any community," she added.

The Alice Club is an official organization chartered by the Democratic Party and is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. An important player in local politics, the club has endorsed Supervisor Mark Leno for the 13th Assembly

District and recently chastised Mayor Willie Brown for failing to support a gay candidate in the race.

"Our highest short-term priority is to help Mark Leno win the Democratic nomination. Longer-term, over the next two years, San Francisco will elect five supervisors and a new mayor," said Sparks. "Alice B. Toklas, having successfully worked with diverse groups in the city for 30 years, is well positioned to facilitate discussion and move beyond ideological bickering to find effective solutions to the challenges facing San Francisco."

In 1994 Sparks was appointed by the U.S. trade representative to Mexico to the United States-Mexico Environmental Business Committee to encourage stronger trade relationships between the two countries. She previously held the position of president and CEO of Greenfield Environmental and as president and chief operating officer of Evergreen Holdings Inc., both headquartered in Southern California.

The Alice club meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the new LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. ▼

Milk Club

◀ page 12

trade is also a neighborhood organizer, and was the spokeswoman for last year's Proposition L campaign which sought to close the loophole through which many city residents were getting evicted for profit.

In addition to stepping up outreach, Walker's presidential duties will include setting the agenda for meetings, at which she plans to encourage dialogue on issues like tenants' rights, political reform, and the recent attacks on the homeless.

"As part of the prelude to the 2003 mayor's race, Gavin Newsom is doing his best to criminalize the homeless," said Walker. "It's going to take a concentrated effort from

progressive communities to make sure that somebody is actually focusing on the causes of homelessness rather than criminalizing people who feel the effect of these issues. We need real solutions."

Walker said she is particularly excited about working with the new Milk Club board, which includes the newly elected Kirsten Boyd as co-chair of the club's political action committee; Tommi Avicoli Mecca as correspondent; Peter Wong as treasurer; LaMonte Bailey as recorder; Robert Haaland, re-elected as vice president of internal affairs; and Enrique Asis as vice president of political affairs.

The club has endorsed Harry Britt for the 13th District Assembly seat and many club members are involved in his campaign.

"I'm really happy; I love this

group of people," said Walker. "It's exciting that there's a lot of new leadership coming forward."

The Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, San Francisco's largest Democratic club, was founded in 1977 as the first Democratic club with the word "gay" in its name. Its mission is to participate in organizing San Francisco's large LGBT community to a powerful political voice with the expectation that "politicians take progressive stands on economic issues, on the rights of women, workers and minorities, on protection of the environment, and on international affairs."

The Milk Club was renamed for Supervisor Harvey Milk after his assassination by Dan White in 1978. Walker has been a member of the group for about seven years. ▼

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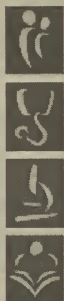
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God-zillerating!

by Jim Provenzano

Speedskater Derrick Parra just thanked Home Depot and Jesus Christ for helping him win. It makes me wanna buy some nails.

Home Depot refuses to offer its employees domestic partnership benefits. They're also employers of dozens of Olympic medalists and hundreds of wannabes, which is fine. Just don't force your hets-only agenda on my kitchen cabinets.

They're very moral, those jocks. This is without a doubt the most moral of Olympics.

That is, if you forget the more than two-year history of bribes; first-class airline tickets, gold jewelry, \$4,000 dinners at Le Cirque, and nepotistic choices in torchbearers.

This slightly taints the latest wholesome victory in luge, or the triple medal sweep in halfpipe (snowboarding in a giant ice ramp), a sport we had to make up so the U.S. wouldn't be wiped out by Swedes in every other category. Only in America could medals be awarded to a sport that's banned on most other slopes.

Was pairs skating a complete rip-off? Well, duh. The Canadian couple was beyond perfect, and yet the sloppy Russkies got the gold, due to the bias of the zombified Commie leftovers in the judges' corral. Revenge is best served cold (war), but these freaks have been gnawing on leftovers a bit too long.

God hates luge

The prospect of any fuchsia-tights-clad jock mentioning his or her domestic partner are about as probable as a non-Russian winning in pairs skating.

This hasn't deterred the freaks from Phelpsiana, who are only one of the many rotating protest groups corralled into the sign-waving bin far away from the Olympic Village. Apparently, GOD HATES FAGS who speed skate, too.

According to the *Chronicle*, demented hate-monger Margie Phelps held a sign that read, "UNITED YOU'LL FALL." Is this a prediction of God's wrath on airlines, or people who trip on



Bored of the rings

their skis?

But while Mormons may be a bit more reserved in homophobic judgment and sexual themes — this week at least — humping plushies seem to have completely taken over the entertainment segment of the festival. Ewoks on Ice!

Not that a paid ringside ticket guarantees visibility or entry to the Medal Wars. At the sold out figure skating event, it was only half full for the first hour, because anal retentive security guards kept paid attendees waiting in freezing temperatures. Rent-a-cops dissected pens, chewing gum was confiscated, credit cards were inspected (for secret microchip weapons to be used as part of Yemenese terrorists acts from the vast imagination of John Ashcroft!).

According to NBC feel-good infotainers, since nothing has happened, it's all worth the millions of security dollars you paid for. But if you live in San Francisco and don't have cable, you can't watch what you paid for.

Tipping the scaly

You think my reporting's weird?

David Icke, a former sports-writer for the United Kingdom, has some interesting perspectives about why the mysterious city of Salt Lake won the Olympic bid.

Icke puts together all the conspiracy theories ever into one gigantic, amusing, strange Web site full of fun. It's like diving into an Escher print of every *X-Files* episode. A lot of it centers around — you guessed it — Salt Lake City.

Basically, the Icke theology says the entire world is controlled

by secret cabals like the Illuminati, Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, Mormons, and alien reptiles who built a link of tunnels leading from Area 51 to the basement of the Tabernacle Choir's practice room.

Icke says the latest "alleged terrorist threat" is part of the conspiracy of creating crisis in order to force a totalitarian regime over the planet, where human sacrifices will become a regular event. (Can we start with Ken Lay?) The more acclimated we become to horrific events, combined with Arnold-ified fiction versions, the easier the takeover of our gullible minds.

Oh, and Icke claims that the Mormons are even more whacked out than Scientologists, and this whole Christianity thing is a rip-off. Apparently, George Bush is descended from a secret Skull & Bones cabal of reptilian aliens, and their bloodline goes all the way back to some nasty Roman emperor named Piso who made up the Jesus story from the life of Apollonius of Tyana.

This is just one of about a dozen other pre-Christian stories about guys who did pretty much the same things as Jesus did; had God for a dad (like some athletes claim), performed miracles (not unlike a downhill skier), hung out with radicals (snowboarders again) and had a carpentry gig, which takes us back to Home Depot.

For a definite bookmark in your weird Web sites folder, visit: www.davidicke.com.

For a full archive of almost 50 news articles documenting the most corrupt Olympics since Berlin, visit: www.canoe.ca/Slam-OlympicScandal/home.html

For 100 percent reptile-free reporting, visit: www.sportscomplex.org. ▼

Ian McKellen

◀ page 1

marked Witherington, "as there is for a lot of people."

And with his acknowledgment of his sexuality came a life of outspoken activism and work on behalf of gay causes, from his founding of the Stonewall Group U.K., an organization that fights for legal and social equality for lesbians and gays in the United Kingdom to his serving as chair of the Iris Trust, the charity arm of Stonewall, to his performing across the world in a solo show entitled, *A Knight Out*, which benefits a handful of LGBT rights, education, and arts organizations. McKellen has also been instrumental in setting up and supporting gay rights efforts in South Africa, as one activist group noted earlier this week in a congratulatory letter to the Pride Committee.

"Sir Ian McKellen's role in establishing a foundation for GLBT

rights in South Africa needs further lauding worldwide. It is this foundation that led to South Africa being the first country in the world whose Constitution protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation," said the statement from Cape Town Gay Pride. "Ian's role in our development as a progressive new South Africa is long remembered by those fighting for equality, and he was lauded as a South African hero at Cape Town's first Pride Parade in December last year. On behalf of the GLBT communities in Southern Africa, we wish you well in your parade and applaud the appointment of Sir Ian as celebrity grand marshal."

McKellen's public education efforts have also extended into print media, as he was a contributor to the *Stonewall 25* anthology in 1994; and wrote the forwards to the books *Family Outing: A Guide for Parents of Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals*; and *Gay Letters*, both

released in 1995.

SF Pride's Witherington, who knows McKellen from their days in London together, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that McKellen's life as an actor, activist, and role model immediately sprang to mind with the announcement of the Pride theme.

"He's done so many things for so many organizations," said Witherington, "it just seemed like the ideal opportunity."

McKellen's flight and hotel will be paid for through corporate sponsorships, but other than that, there are no costs associated with his appearance, which he is providing for free.

"He views being grand marshal as a great honor," said Witherington. "Sometimes with celebrities you find yourself chasing people down to appear at events, but with Ian, this is a community and an occasion that he loves."

The Pride Parade will take place Sunday, June 30. ▼

Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

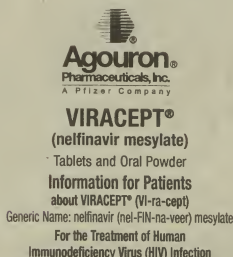
VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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A Pfizer Company



Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Propulsid[®] (cisapride, for heartburn)
Cordarone[®] (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute[®], Cardioquin[®], Quinidex[®], and others
Ergot derivatives (Cafergot[®] and others, for migraine headache)
Halcion[®] (triazolam)
Versed[®] (midazolam)
Mevacor[®] (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
Zocor[®] (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin[®] (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane[®], Rifadin[®], Rifater[®], or Rifamate[®]
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin[®] (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

Phenobarbital
Phenytoin (Dilantin[®] and others)
Carbamazepine (Tegretol[®] and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra[®] (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor[®] (lovastatin) or Zocor[®] (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor[®] (atorvastatin) and Baycol[®] (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), a herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)
Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
Videx[®] (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune[®] (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva[™] (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan[®] (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir[™] (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase[®] (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium[®] A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects,

ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, you should not miss any doses. However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets	
Kg	Lb			
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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La Jolla, California, 92037, USA
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L203-0001 PPI
Rev. 01/25/01

COMMUNITY NEWS

HIV ads

page 1

positives," said Jeff Bailey, director of health, education, and prevention at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. "It will be interesting to see what the impact and what the response will be."

According to the evaluation of the 2000 campaign in San Francisco, 74 percent of viewers felt the commercial was convincing. The campaign exceeded its goal of having 30 percent of the target audience reporting that they were more likely to feel a strong, supportive HIV-positive community.

"I think that it resonated with the community on a number of levels because it was completely credible and up-front, and honest in the fact that these were real HIV-positive members of the community who have successes and failures living their lives with [HIV]," stated Windt.

In line with the campaign objectives, 29 percent of respondents were more likely to believe that positives have a responsibility to end HIV, while 23 percent were more likely to believe that it is their responsibility to keep partners negative.

Nearly 19 percent of respondents were more likely to disclose their HIV status to their partner before sex, while 23 percent of HIV-positive gay and bisexual men were more likely to be optimistic about their future health.

Now in its third year in the Bay Area, the campaign has cost \$800,000. The new ads will appear sometime in the fall and will feature several new spokesmodels. If the advertising agency proves the ads continue to be effective, then the CDC will fund a fourth-year for the pilot project to air ads in 2003.

"We have been able to be very consistent. That's sort of just basic: to do effective advertising you have to have a really strong and consistent presence," said Papas, who is openly gay.

Spokesmodel dies

On Saturday, February 2, one of the San Francisco spokesmodels, Alfredo, died due to AIDS complications. He was 38.

"Alfredo was a caring friend who was full of life and energy. He had an abundance of style and charisma and was a bit eccentric. We will miss his humor and his passion," reads a message posted to the campaign's Web site.

While he will not be part of this year's campaign, his story will remain part of the campaign's Web site.

"He had been ill for a while and in pain, and so we hope his passing has brought him some comfort," said Windt. "His life continues to be the kind of example of what it means to live with HIV and be responsible to others."

A coordinator of the San Francisco PLUS Seminar, a program of the Stop AIDS Project, Alfredo ended up as a spokesmodel after the Latino man initially selected dropped out at the last minute.

"He felt so strongly that positive men needed to be responsible," said friend and colleague Steve Gibson, Stop AIDS' program director.

As part of his bio on the Web site, Alfredo wrote, "Having HIV is no pretty ride along wine country, let me tell you. It's not always easy having to take 40 pills a day, battling diarrhea, nausea, and headaches. Sometimes I ask myself, 'Is this all worth it?' But then I remind myself of the volunteers' commitment to PLUS and when I look into the participants' faces I remind myself of the promise I made to a group of 50 strangers almost ten years ago. And the answer is yes, it is worth it!"

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

PUBLIC HEARING

The San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission will hold its First Public Hearing on Public Power on Friday, February 22, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at City Hall, Board of Supervisors Legislative Chamber, Rm. 250, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco. For more information, call Monica Fish at 415-554-7702. **PAYROLL TAX STATEMENT FILING DEADLINE** Treasurer Susan Leal reminds all San Francisco business owners to be sure to file their 2001 Payroll Tax Statement and payment (if applicable) or Payroll Tax Exemption Declaration by Thursday, February 28, 2002. Statements and Exemption Declarations must be postmarked on or before February 28, received in the City Payment Center by 5:00 p.m. that day, or filed on line by 11:59 p.m. or they will be considered delinquent. Please note that all businesses must file a Statement or Exemption Declaration, even though many will have no tax obligation. Business owners that fail to file their Statements or Exemption Declarations by the deadline will incur penalties and/or interest. Businesses can now save time by filing online at www.sfgov.org/online/services. Contact Taxpayer Assistance at (415) 554-4400, email the department at Treasurer_TaxCollector@cfc.ca.us, or visit the Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector in City Hall Room 140 for more information. **VACANCIES**

The Drug Abuse Advisory Board has openings. Members must have a professional interest in or personal commitment to alleviating drug abuse and be representative of various social, economic and occupational groups as well as broadly representative of the demographic characteristics of San Francisco. Appointments to the Advisory Board shall reflect public policy with regard to affirmative action selection of Third World and other appropriate special citizen groups. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the city's web site: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/bdsuprv/vacancies>

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families announces the availability of funds from the Children's Fund. Guidelines are provided in the Request for Proposal (RFP). Two RFPs will be available for pick-up:

on or after February 5th for children and youth services

on or after February 12th for Beacon programs

RFP can be picked up at DCYF - 1390 Market St., Ste. 900 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or can be downloaded from our website at www.dcyf.org.

Proposals are due at DCYF (hand delivered only) March 7, 2002 by 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted, regardless of postmark.

A non-mandatory bidders conference (for children and youth programs only) will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. at the Department of Public Health office at 101 Grove St. This will be the applicants' final opportunity to ask DCYF questions, so applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. A letter of intent, due by 5:00 p.m. on February 25th, is also encouraged.

For further information, contact: Winna Davis, Director of Program and Grants at (415) 557-8957 (general questions); Kar Yin Tham, Planner and Policy Analyst at (415) 437-4653 (Youth Employment); Dolores G. Terrazas, City Wide Child Care Administrator at (415) 554-8791 (Early Care and Education).

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254342

The following person(s) are doing business as: Network, 3221 20th Street, San Francisco, CA. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed NWC, LLC (Nevada Corp.) Gregory Allan Maupin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 03, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/26/02.

JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254411

The following person(s) are doing business as: Skopio Enterprises, 435 Page Street, San Francisco, CA. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darrell Gary Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/02.

JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254422

The following person(s) are doing business as: Capacitas, Capacitas Consulting, 124 Lower Terrace, San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Austin Flanagan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/02.

JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254310

The following person(s) are doing business as: Network Professionals, 2215-R Market Street, San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Geri Santner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/15/02.

JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. CFP 02-540116 In the Matter of the Application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change of Name. The application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. CFP 02-540116 In the Matter of the Application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change of Name. The application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. 540114 In the Matter of the Application of Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. for change of Name. The application of Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dixie Mae Hensen. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. 540123 In the Matter of the Application of Cecilia Flores for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Cecilia Flores has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Antonio John Flores. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of March at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002



NOTICE OF SALE OF UNCLAIMED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY PUBLIC AUCTION:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That, in accordance with California Civil Code 1988 and Code of Civil Procedure 1174, the items of personal property described below, left by the evicted tenant, Paul C. Siu at 2363A-20th Ave., S.F., CA, will be sold at public auction on Feb. 24, 2002, beginning at 10:00a.m., at 2363A-20th Ave., S.F., CA, to the highest bidder for cash. The owner of the building is Mi Yu Kan. The property to be sold is described as follows, miscellaneous household items, including but not limited to: 1 table with 4 chairs set, 1 wooden table with 2 chairs set, 2 leather sofa love seats, 1 wall cabinet, 1 bookshelf, 2 sm. tables, 1 TV cabinet, 2 file cabinets, 1 sm. cabinet, 9 cases of wine, 4 big vases, 6 Chinese enamel dolls, 1 bx. of Cloroxine, 3 bxs. ceramicware, 12 picture frames, 15 bxs. books, 1bx. old record albums, 34 CD's, 1 Sony 27" TV, 1 Sony 20" TV, 1 Sony VCR, 1 Toshiba VCR, 2 radios, 1 receiver, 1 Sony tape recorder, 3 microwave ovens, 35pkr's, 1 Partrair 17" monitor, 1 Apple Mac 15" monitor, 1 Apple Mac PC, 1 projector, 1 Apple Personal Laser Writer LS Laser printer, 1 Haier refrigerator, 1 heater, 1 telephone, 1 Sony 5 disc CD changer and many used clothing & shoes. Nelson Lam, Esq. Attorney at Law 690 Market St. Ste. 1006 S.F., CA 94104. (415) 982-4933. FEB. 07, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254459

The following person(s) are doing business as: SpaceDeLine, 1571 Underwood Avenue, San Francisco, CA. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dale Edgar Zink. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22/02.

JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254117

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bluebird Birds, 1032 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathy M. Ritchie. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/01/02.

JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253961

The following person(s) are doing business as: Courtney's Delicatessen, 712 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Courtney Schroedorf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/02.

JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254514

The following person(s) are doing business as: Night Honkey, 2223 Union Street, San Francisco, CA. 94123. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Patricia Ann Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/24/02.

JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254549

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tina's Laundramat, 636 Cheney Street, San Francisco, CA. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Pat Sahagun. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 25, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/25/02.

JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 213081

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Tina's Laundromat. Located at: 636 Cheney Street, San Francisco, CA. 94131. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 4/10/1997. This business was conducted by: A Husband and Wife: Nicholas C. Vratimos and Cathryn M. Vratimos.

JAN. 21, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254543

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jockstar Della Coffee 1255 post St. Ste. 200 S.F., CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nor K. Haddad. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/25/2002.

FEB 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254728

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fuel Florist 3606 Taraval Ave. S.F., CA 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Fan Chun Yuen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/31/2002.

FEB 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254644

The following person(s) are doing business as: (1) Synapse Chiropractic, (2) Synapse Health Center 4223 Geary Blvd. S.F., CA 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Allen Bagherian Chiropractic Inc., President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/29/2002.

FEB 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254767

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sturges Janitorial 1151 Wisconsin St. #A S.F., CA. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Simon W. Taylor. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/01/2002.

FEB 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254892

The following person(s) are doing business as: Patent Law Offices Of Michael E. Woods, 104 Collins Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael E. Woods. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/2002.

FEB 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254229

The following person(s) are doing business as: Group 41, Limited & Out With Friends, 43 Seward Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Joel Micah Karr and Lyles Micah Dickerson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/14/02.

FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254856

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gentle Star Medspa, 1105 Boworth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Thomas R. Ellis MD Inc. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254860

The following person(s) are doing business as: Emees Design, 203 Noe Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Philip Lyle Fagot. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 4, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254931

The following person(s) are doing business as: Panta Rei, 431 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Alessandro Iacobelli, vice-president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254848

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thanh Trang Production, 876 Girard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thanh Trang Thang Do. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 4, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. 02-540133 In the Matter of the Application of Juan Ramon Diaz. For change of Name. The application of Juan Ramon Diaz for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Juan Ramon Diaz has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jo Ann Diaz. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of April 2002 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 06, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254975

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Horizon Management, Inc. 1746 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Osamu Horikoshi, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/07/2002.

FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254973
The following person(s) are doing business as: Thomas Harley Bond Design, 1026 Folsom Street #11, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas Harley Bond. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/07/2002. FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540137
In the Matter of the Application of Kevin
Paul Baguio. For change of Name. The
application of Kevin Paul Baguio for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Kevin Paul Baguio has filed an application
proposing that his/her name be changed to -
Nedjula Pauline Baguio. Now therefore, it is
hereby ordered and directed, that all
persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in Department 218 on the
12th day of March at 9:00am., of said day
to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 14, 21, 28, MAR. 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 254995
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Studio3Q, 182 Howard Street #425,
San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Laura
Grace Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on
January 30, 2002. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 02/08/2002.
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STATEMENT FILE NO. 254903
The following person(s) are doing business
as: All Star Framing Co. 1082 Howard
Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This
business is conducted by an individual
signed Jennifer Torres. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on January 1, 2001. The statement
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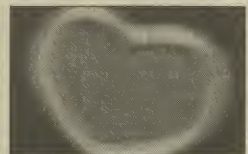


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STATEMENT FILE NO.255032
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Teutonic, Inc. 330 Townsend Street,
Suite #109, San Francisco, Ca. 94107.
This business is conducted by a corporation
signed signed Chris Dolan, corporate
officer. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
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These funds will also support the HIV Prevention Project, the nation's largest needle exchange program, widely credited with the virtual elimination of pediatric AIDS in San Francisco.

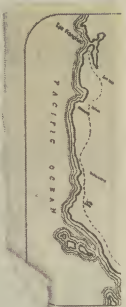
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 7 • 14 February 2002

Plush cabaret

The Lush Lounge's live scene
on Polk Street

by Alex Robertson Textor

The Wednesday night open mike
series at the Lush Lounge is
thriving, but still undiscovered.

Since April 2000, the Lush Lounge at 1100 Polk St. has provided a deluxe piano bar oasis on a gritty block. The space is cluttered, the interior frenzied. It's obviously a gay space, baroque and kitsch at the same time, loosely retro in appearance and vibe. The drinks, especially the citrusy ones like mojitos and lemon drops, are strong and artfully handled, and they're served to wide acclaim.

The Lush Lounge features a range of musical entertainment, all of which fits under the general classification of piano-bar fare. Three nights a week, house pi-

anist Larry O'Leno accompanies jazzy torch songs and classic standards on an open mike. A jazz trio performs on Sunday afternoons and early evenings from 4:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. On Mondays and Tuesdays, the piano is silent. And then there are the Wednesdays. Wednesdays bring the house down. The Wednesday night open mike series *Live at the Lush Lounge* has been kicking since August 2000. Admission to *Live* entails a \$5 cover charge and a two-drink minimum.

Around 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, the room fills up quickly. MCs Jennifer Cantorna and Frankie Spagnolo

brassily cajole the packed crowd, priming their enthusiasm. It is a scene, if a wall-to-object-encrusted-wall of eager patrons signifies a scene. Cabaret queens talk show-tunes in one corner; a woman in her 60s gently critiques a vocal performance in another. Immaculately coiffed young women, strewn throughout, clutch sheet music.

One expects to find camouflaged talent scouts hidden in the crowd, taking hurried notes on range, appearance and delivery on their Palm Pilots. The energy level is high, a fact plainly obvious to all, no matter their

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Rice king

Christopher Rice
on fame and fiction by Joe E. Jeffreys

Is it harder being gay or the child of a celebrity? "It's harder being Anne Rice's son," says Christopher Rice. Son of vampire novelist Anne Rice and poet Stan Rice, 23-year-old Christopher Rice was an immediate publishing sensation. His first novel, *A Density of Souls*, rode *The New York Times* best-seller list last year, and his new novel, *The Snow Garden* (Talk/Miramax), is a page-turner with deep mysteries, sudden reversals, explosions, gun fights and car crashes.

"Having a famous last name gets you the access. The advantages of it are incredible. I can get all the meetings I want, but if I couldn't go in there with something to back it up with, I would be gone. I would have been on the cover of *The Advocate* and gone the next week," says the artic-

ulate and out young gay writer.

His new novel more than delivers the goods. In it, a married college professor is seduced into an affair by an enigmatic male student. Set in a small snowbound Northeast college town, the story is one of murder, scandal, intrigue, sexual menace, and secrets, and full of big cinematic visuals. "I don't know what it says about me that I think in those sorts of visuals," the author offers.

Rice is only half-joking when he calls himself "the Stephen King of gay fiction." "There's a tradition of gay fiction," he explains, "that is very hyper-realistic. It's sort of a social chronicle. I've brought this sort of sensational, over-the-top thriller element to it — the Hollywood cinematic moment."

Born in San Francisco, Rice was 10 when the

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Band of Cherubs

No shortage of romantic events to take your honey, your bunny, or your money to this Valentine's weekend. One likely prospect is to join the Saturday-night audience at the San Francisco Art Institute when **San Francisco Cinematheque** presents *The Queer Avant-Garde*, the first installment in its winter season focus on the films of 1971-81. The out-of-the-closet queer cinema which was evolving in that decade also had a commitment to the artistic avant-garde. Sex and brains, what a combo.

All of the films Cinematheque is screening celebrate both sexual difference and unconventional film form: **Su Friedrich's** *Gently Down the Stream*; **Michael Wallin's** *The Place Between Our Bodies*; **Tom Chomont's** *Oblivion*; **James Broughton's** *Hermes Bird*; **Barbara Hammer's** *Multiple Orgasms*; and **Curt McDowell's** *Confessions*.

Wallin told Out There that his film, made from 1973-75, was a minor *cause célèbre* when it was first screened, as it was one of the earliest films to explore gay sexuality explicitly, though not pornographically. *The Place Between Our Bodies*, which Wallin calls "a personal experimental documen-



Michael Wallin, right, in *The Place Between Our Bodies*, 1975

tary," explores connections, cruising, fantasies, the ways men meet. While he was making it, Wallin met the man who was to become his lover of 10 years.

The Place Between Our Bodies hasn't been publicly shown for at least that long, says Wallin, "and I could never make such a film now. My artistic stance has changed, and the film is embarrassingly confessional." He'll be there for the screening, squirming in his seat.

The Queer Avant-Garde program plays Sat., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Art In-

stitute, 800 Chestnut St. Tickets are \$7. Info: (415) 822-2885, or www.sfcinematheque.org.

The very same evening, Bay Area vocal stylist **Faye Carol** will be appearing in a program called *The Duke and the Lady* at Old First Concerts (Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.) Carol will be performing the work of those two great, maybe greatest 20th-century musical icons, **Duke Ellington** and **Billie Holiday**, and she has put a special call out to the lesbian, gay, bi and trans community to "fill the hall with love" for the occasion. Members of **Queer-jazz SF** will be in the house when the dynamic Miss Carol raises the roof of Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St.; tickets are \$12; info at (415) 474-1608.



The dynamic Miss Faye Carol

High cultchuh

OT could be found chilling at the Mark Hopkins Inter-Continental Hotel last Thursday night for the reception in honor of outgoing President of KQED **Mary Bitterman**. The grand old hotel was sort of a sentimental choice of party venue for the public broadcasters, since KQED's very first television transmitter and studios were located at the Top of the Mark in 1954. Hey, someone call up those losers at NBC, and tell 'em we found another place they can hang up their signal-booster. Plus it's got a great view.

Friday night, we were among the hobnobbers at the opening night party for the new cluster of exhibits at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, including a group show by artists inspired by the novel *Guide* by cult transgressive author

Dennis Cooper, who, as artist-in-residence, was in the house.

Guide to Trust No.

2, too tightly installed in one of the YBC galleries, is a mixed bag, but does include a large print by

artist **Anthony**

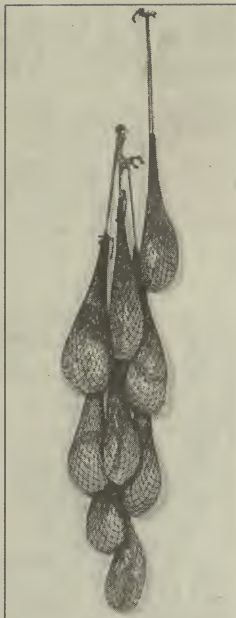
Goicolea, whose

work we discovered at the Corcoran last year. In

Grave Diggers (2001), he has again digitally cloned himself into the picture, this time as Cooper's typically doomed boys.

Artist-in-residence **Shannon Kennedy** took a medical imaging device called the endoscope and explored behind the walls and in the air ducts of YBC's Galleries and Forum building. The resulting video installation, *BUILDING project*, is a fascinating study of mold and dust that looks like a fantastic voyage through the body.

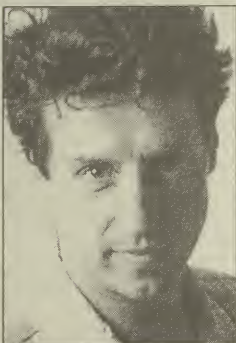
Spotted at the press opening of the historic **Eva Hesse** show now up at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: the late artist's proud sister, **Helen Hesse Charash**. OT was in the gallery when guest curator **Elisabeth Sussman** ribbed philanthropist **Phyllis Wattis**, "I was there at the auction!" when Wattis outbid the room for the Hesse piece she later gave as a gift to SFMOMA. Sussman had wanted *Untitled or Not Yet* (1966) for the Whitney.



Untitled or Not Yet by Eva Hesse

Poultry on parade

Out There approached *Chicken: Self-Portrait of a Young Man for Rent* by **David Henry Sterry** (HarperCollins) with the same unbridled enthusiasm we have brought to other entries in the recent boom of memoirs by sex workers. Sterry is up-front and amusing in recounting his walk on the wild side called Hollywood Boulevard, but there's a major stumbling block for our true appreciation, since he doesn't swing both ways. When asked at an escort service whether there's anything he's uncomfortable with, and would he work with men, Sterry writes, "I imagine myself with a man in my mouth. Being in a man's mouth. I'm uncomfortable."



Author David Henry Sterry

Still, *Chicken* does size up his competition in the escort business: "Finally Horse unzips, fishes dramatically, and folds it out. A baby's arm with an apple in the fist. I believe that's **Tennessee Williams**, but I'm not sure. Veins bulging like a relief map of the Amazon, it must weigh 30 lbs., and it looks like it'd take all the blood in his body just to fill it up."

On more or less the same topic, special thanks to our chum who evidently has nothing better to do than surf teasewear sites all day. Yes, in the spirit of 9-11-never-again (and also the spirit of make-a-buck-at-all-costs), click over to www.beefyboyz.com, and you can find your very own jockstrap embroidered with the NYPD logo. Dear reader, wouldn't you look swell in a **NYPD jockstrap**? "Stop, or I'll shoot!" Or maybe try the fit of a **NYFD jock**. O America, the land of opportunity! ▼

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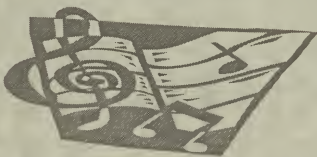
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Color him blithe

Director Charles Randolph-Wright returns to the Geary with 'Blithe Spirit'

by Richard Dodds

As reaffirmed by the current production of *Design for Living*, you mess with the delicate and specific world of Noel Coward at your peril. But even though he has cast Gregory Wallace, a black actor, as the central character in a biracial *Blithe Spirit*, director Charles Randolph-Wright says his production isn't about redefining Coward.

"What will hopefully happen in *Blithe Spirit* is that you lose color," he said. "You see it, but

then you lose it, because you're now just watching people."

ACT's production of the 1941 play begins performances next week at the Geary Theater, where Randolph-Wright previously reset Moliere's *Tartuffe* in an affluent black household in 1950s South Carolina.

"That was my family," the director said. "People said it wasn't realistic, but I knew it was. It's the same case with *Blithe Spirit*. Yes, this person could exist in this time frame, so now I can tell the story."

It is the story of Charles Con-

domine, a mystery writer living in the English countryside with his second wife, the plain-named Ruth. Elvira, his exotic first wife, now deceased, returns from the dead to tie up spiritual loose



Randolph-Wright, landscaper

ends. Madame Arcati is the happy medium who paves the way for this crossover from the other side.

"For any artist of color, it seems your art has to be about color for it to be successful," Randolph-Wright said. "You can't be a painter and go and paint a landscape. And I want to paint a landscape. And I want to paint that landscape with me in it, and in this case it works. There were

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Rachel York and Rex Smith in *Kiss Me, Kate* at the Orpheum: cornball

Another opening

Tame 'Kiss Me, Kate'

by Richard Dodds

The revival of *Kiss Me, Kate* generated some real heat in its recent Broadway incarnation. Too bad, then, that the temperature setting is lukewarm on the touring edition, now in residence at the Orpheum Theatre.

The production is missing some of the remembered snap, and then there are problems with casting. There is some fun to be had here, and it's probably most potent if you haven't seen *Kiss Me, Kate* in a while.

The first chance to see *Kiss Me, Kate* was in 1948. It was a high-end product from traditional musical-comedy makers, with assets that included Cole Porter's last major Broadway score and a clever book by Sam and Bella Spewack. It mixed the story of a pair of sparring star actors with the characters they are playing in an out-of-town musical that just happens to be based on *The Taming of the Shrew*.

For its first return to Broadway in more than 50 years, the libretto has been tweaked by an uncredited John Guare, who, despite his authorship of *Six Degrees of Separation*, has mostly substituted cornball humor for an older counterpart. But that didn't matter much when it opened on Broadway, where the ingredients pulled together for a splashy, colorful, and even sexy recounting of a musical warhorse.

Whereas Rachel York is a perfectly reasonable choice to play the hard-on-the-outside, soft-on-the-inside Lillie Vanessi, top-billed Rex Smith's performance just isn't what it needs to be to

play Lillie's seductive ex-husband and once-again co-star.

Smith was notably a pop singer and soap opera actor when his teen-idol manner helped him score in that famous production of *Pirates of Penzance* with Linda Ronstadt. But his new character's swashbuckling devilry is mainly suggested through a growl in his voice, while the needed affability and comic delivery go wanting.

As noted, York is able to uphold her side of the equation with a well-crafted performance as Lillie, the double shrew who's actually a romantic at heart. And as the avaricious starlet Lois Lane (no relation), Jenny Hill lands in an agreeably buoyant groove. But her character's counterpart, the dance-happy Bill Calhoun, comes across as awfully ordinary in Jim Newman's efforts.

And so it pretty much goes. Even the sure-fire pair of comic thugs who sing "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" aren't quite so sure-fire at the Orpheum. And yet Richard Poe and Steven Sofia's performances are among the stronger elements of the show.

Director Michael Blakemore and choreographer Kathleen Marshall have recreated their admired work, but the touring production seldom offers more than a generally pleasant night at the theater. With a leading man playing a leading man who can't seduce an audience, *Kiss Me, Kate* earns only a firm handshake and a bit of honest disappointment. ▼

Kiss Me, Kate will run at the Orpheum Theatre through March 3. Tickets are \$34-\$76. Call 551-7770.

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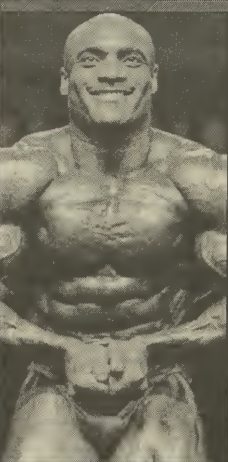
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Lost 'Angelo'

San Francisco Ballet's Programs I & II

by Stephanie von Buchau

Every choreographer has a stinker of a narrative ballet in his bag. Or her bag, in the case of Julia Adam, the San Francisco Ballet principal dancer whose *Angelo* sailed out of port last week and promptly sank. If you are an old SFB hand, you'll remember Tomm Ruud's *Richmond Diary* or Helgi Tomasson's *Reflections of Saint Joan*, eye-glazing, mind-numbing, heart-stopping (in the wrong way) odes to storytelling in what I am sure their choreographers innocently thought of as "the classical ballet manner."

Two years ago, Adam made *Night*, an amazing piece for a choreographic virgin (so to speak; it was not her first piece, but it was her first huge success). *Night* was a perfect postmodern ballet, sexy without being sleazy, imaginative without being obscure, evocative of deep feelings in the viewers, and set to a brilliant rock-synth-orchestra score by Matthew Pierce. It was a perfectly delirious experience.

Naturally, we were hoping that Adam could replicate her success, which put enormous pressure on her to produce something as mind-blowing as *Night*. She's made other dances in the interim, but SFB is still the big time. Yet she couldn't copy herself, and in any case, the musical impetus was gone. Picking unrelated pieces of

music by Vivaldi, inorganic and distant — as opposed to the immediacy of Pierce's contribution — was not a good idea, especially with an ambitious theme to illustrate Shakespeare's "Seven Ages of Man" from *As You Like It*.

Angelo actually starts rather well. I saw the second cast, when the young man (Gonzalo Garcia), dressed in Renaissance blue, is born under the tree of life (glittering with apples) from a mother (Yuan Yuan Tan) dressed, like all the women, in identical red cut-out hip-length gown with train, not very flattering for the rounder girls in the cast. The gestures of the mother-son duet imprint themselves on the boy, who then tries to repeat them with the other women in his life.

They are a childhood friend (Kristin Long) whom he tries to seduce. She pushes him into the orchestra pit. At this farcical moment, I thought there was hope for *Angelo*, but after a sensual love duet (with Vanessa Zahorian), Angelo's buddy (Stephen Legate) introduces him to warfare. After a lot of whacking about with sticks from the tree, Angelo kills one of his childhood pals. Then he gets married to a veiled Catherine Baker, with whom his buddy absconds after the wedding night. Angelo begs forgiveness from his other childhood pal and crawls back to Mommy.

Oy. Any resemblance to the incisive sexuality and raw heart-

break of Balanchine's *The Prodigal Son* may have been coincidental, but it was unmistakable and unfortunate. In addition to Balanchine, *Prodigal* has a magnificent score by Prokofiev. *Night* was so original that it makes me sad to note that nothing about *Angelo* (except his being pushed into the pit) escapes cliché. As the 30 torturous minutes of Vivaldi drag on, you just want someone to put the thing out of its misery. Anne Beck's costumes did what the choreographer asked, and Paul Hoskins' conducting moved the piece along.

Exalted space

The other new ballet during this first week of subscription programs was on the all-Jerome Robbins program. *Dances at a Gathering* (1969) has long been one of Robbins' most coveted pieces. Nobody seems quite sure, but I believe it is only in the rep of New York City Ballet, the Royal Ballet (where I saw it with Anthony Dowell) and the Paris Opéra Ballet. To put San Francisco Ballet in that exalted group means that the people who control Robbins' estate (where ballets are intellectual property, protected by copyright) have high regard for our local company. After all, Helgi Tomasson danced the Man in Brown many times in New York. It's his kind of ballet — subtle, understated, but drenched in emotion.

SF Ballet's Joanna Berman and Damian Smith in Julia Adam's *Angelo*

The night I saw *Dances at a Gathering*, staged by Susan Hendl and Victor Castelli, it was beautifully danced without quite giving off the emotional glow it should. Yuan Yuan Tan and Vadim Solomakha (she in mauve, he in green) caught that intense romantic distance that Robbins has woven into this plotless ballet, where they seem lost in a world of their own. The "tragic" couple, their duet urgent and hopeless, was danced by Lucia Lacarra (in pink) and Damian Smith (in purple). Joanna Berman was the girl in green who flirts with a series of heedless escorts, but doesn't seem to mind when they abandon her. Roman Rykine danced the Man in Brown. He's no Tomasson, but his improvement in posture, center-

ing and finish since SFB hired him now make him a dancer to enjoy watching.

Daniel Waite played the Chopin pieces (particularly the Mazurkas) with enormous skill — making it sound like an organic recital, even though he has strict rhythmic compacts with the dancers. The rest of the cast was good enough when moving, but at the end, when they spy something overhead — a passing cloud? a vision of their future? — the communal energy that should make this moment and the casual walk that follows it resonate and bring you to tears didn't quite evolve. I think they need more performances together before natural camaraderie will flower. I can wait. ▼

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DANCE

Ailey dancers express themselves

Classic and new works from Alvin Ailey Dance Theater at Zellerbach

by Michael Wade Simpson

Retrospectives happen so rarely in the dance field, live, onstage, where dance exists as the art form of thin air, that an opportunity to attend one is a summoning, if you care about dance. Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, at Zellerbach Hall next week, not only offers up this sampler evening of the works of its founder, who died of AIDS in 1989, but puts the new work of a variety of interesting choreographers on stage in other programs.

Judith Jamison, Company Director and unforgettable presence years back in Ailey's solo for her, "Cry," was commissioned by the Salt Lake City Olympic Arts Festival to create a work based on the life of FloJo, the sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner, triple gold medalist who died in an epileptic seizure in 1998. The result is the work, "Here...Now," which was called a "coolly visualized distillation" and "stunningly inventive" in a *New York Times* review.

Another new work is "Serving Nia," a recent premiere by Ronald K. Brown, inspired by Brown's trips to Senegal, Ivory Coast and Guinea. The piece features a blended style of both music and movement, with a jazz and African score, and a mix of movement styles that include hip hop, modern and traditional West African.

Ailey Classics, the full program of Ailey works, intends to demonstrate "the diversity of style and subject matter that has made Mr. Ailey a major contributor to the world of dance," according to program notes. Ailey

started the company in 1958 as a black modern dance company, dedicated to offering dance and cultural expression at the same time. In works that range from showbiz glitz to the heart-wrenchingly emotional, Ailey left a trail of dances that explored his own place in the world, and that of the black American as a result. Pieces on the classics program run the gamut of Ailey's style and thematic exploration, from "Memoria" (1979) and "Cry" (1971), which honor women in his life; to street-smart men in "Opus McShann" (1988) and "For 'Bird' with Love" (1984); to a gospel-flavored masterpiece based on his Texas childhood, "Revelations."

House style

Ailey, a gay man, was never afraid to risk being too gaudy or sexy or silly, and some of the works remind us that modern dance, Broadway jazz and Las Vegas strutting are not entirely dissimilar. At the same time, he was able to create works that distilled emotion and operated as simply as a Martha Graham solo. It was always about the dancers, too. To see the splendid Ailey dancers perform, even in the most outrageous split and spanned costumes with parasols and other props, is a lesson in theatre. They dignify the content, make it work because they are uniformly passionate about every step they take. It's the company style.

Never taking himself too seriously, Ailey represented everything that was good about the arts in the '70s and '80s. Now Judith Jamison brings the company into the new millennium. Jami-



Company Director Judith Jamison based a dance on the life of FloJo.

son's new work, the FloJo piece "Here...Now," features an original score by Wynton Marsalis. Looking at the similarities be-

tween dancers and athletes, Jamison structured the piece into five sections, "Speed," "Strength," "Style," "Pain," and "Heaven."

There is no single dancer portraying Joyner, and Jamison wrote in a *New York Times* piece, "Here...Now" is my attempt to honor what I believe FloJo's life meant to so many young athletes, young women, and possibly dancers, too. I did not intend to present her life onstage or create any kind of biographical sketch."

Speed, strength, style, and pain would seem to relate to dance; and heaven, possibly to performing. It will be interesting to see how Jamison represents, or doesn't, the actual movement of an Olympic sprinter.

"Serving Nia," the Ronald K. Brown work, brings spirituality, community and West African-derived movement themes into a piece that offers up morality and jazz in the same world-mix. There is, according to reviews, high-energy dancing on display, in addition to what Anna Kisselgoff in the *Times* called "striking fluidity." Brown, one of the leading young modern dance choreographers in the country, seems to be exploring what the by now tiresome term diversity might mean, without being forced. His synthesis of African and American themes promises to be striking dance.

San Francisco's own Alonzo King is once more represented by the piece he choreographed for the company in 2000, "Following the Subtle Current Upstream." ▼

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Less is still more

Eva Hesse at SFMOMA through May 19

by Will Shank

One would hope that the art-loving public of the Bay Area will embrace the challenges inherent in viewing a "difficult" artist like Eva Hesse (1936-1970). SFMOMA's fourth-floor galleries on a recent weekday morning were busy, as docents led tours of adults and kids through the exhibition, studiously explaining to the visitors what they were seeing. But the museum was certainly not as jam-packed as it was during the record-breaking Alexander Calder or Ansel Adams exhibitions, for example. It should be, because at her most whimsical, Hesse could have the eye appeal, and could tweak the funny bone of the visitor, with the same visual acumen as Calder.

Her relief sculptures from the mid-'60s are surprising sources of delight. The Yale-trained Hesse re-

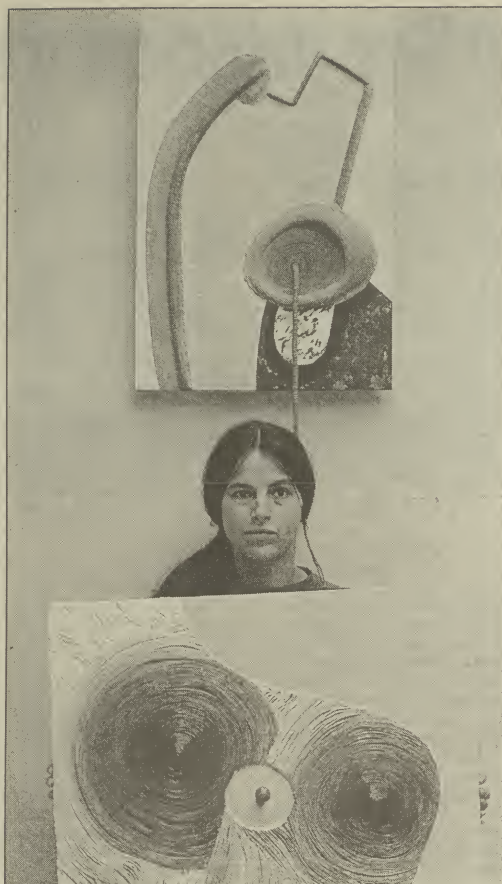
turned in 1964-65 to her native Germany, where, in an abandoned fabric factory, she found as source material discarded bits of textiles, twine and cord. With their coiled, painted cords resembling nipples (*Ringaround Arosie*, 1965), or a crotch-shaped wire V suspended from a concrete, belly-buttoned panel (*C-Clamp Blues*, 1965), they tease and taunt with sexual innuendo, and show Hesse's light-hearted side. The first few galleries, of early drawings chronologically arranged, yield a surprising moment between her first exhibited drawings of 1961 and those of the following few years, when brooding brown and black ink washes give way to whimsical, brightly colored linear cartoon shapes.

Still, it is the work of the last few years of her brief life for which Hesse is best known. Before the toxic art materials contributed to her early death in 1970, Hesse

entered the stratosphere of New York minimalists. Fascinated with collapsed forms, with multiple layers of materials which serve to cancel each other out, and with a constant striving toward the zero, Hesse's titles reflect her desire to achieve a sort of nothingness: *Aught* (1968), a series of cheese-cloth fabrics painted with latex rubber and hung from grommets, and *Sans II* (1967) try to negate their own existence. The former, in its defiant ugliness, is clearly all about the process of becoming four sheets of thin rubber hanging on a wall. And the latter (displayed here with its five separate units, belonging to various museums, reunited) features repeated series of cast fiberglass boxes which almost but not quite fit together into a grid, also gorgeous in its homeliness. She took the reigning '60s Minimalism and turned it inside out, revealing its guts and its private parts, in a series of pieces like *Accession* (1968), whose exterior resembles the hard surface of a Smithsonian or a Judd, but whose interior tendrils beg to be caressed.

Her last works include the posthumously completed *Untitled* (1970), in which seven sets of clumsy fiberglass legs seem to defy gravity in a clustered *sacra conversazione*. Perhaps her greatest achievements are the dangling

page 34 ►



Eva Hesse with *An Ear in a Pond* and *2 in 1* (both 1965).

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From the air

Yvonne Jacquette at Stanford University

by Will Shank

Walking through *Aerial Muse, The Art of Yvonne Jacquette*, the current offering in the galleries of the Cantor Center at Stanford, I was reminded of the big Canaletto show several years ago at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I had anticipated it eagerly, as a fan of the famed 18th-century painter of precisely rendered views of Venice. But after strolling through several galleries filled with splendid *vedute* of canals, gondolas, churches, with the daubed-in figures going about the business of daily life in Venice more than two centuries ago, I began to tire of their gorgeous repetitiveness. One of the Stanford curators confided in me that he finds Jacquette's paintings dispassionate, and it's true that the works here, which date from the late 1970s to the present, lack any sign of stylistic progression. (Earlier works from the 1960s, in the splendid catalog by curator Hilarie Faberman, show Jacquette in a photo-realist mode, à la Richard Estes, but these works are not included in the Stanford exhibition.)

But for me, the uniqueness of their viewpoint, and the handling of the subject matter, are enough to make me crave more. Jacquette's patterns of light, bright colors on deep, dark backgrounds sing a song to me akin to that of Mondrian's "Broadway Boogie Woogie," that jazzy hymn of praise to the rhythms of Manhattan.

Jacquette, Pittsburgh-born and based in New York, is the master of the nocturnal bird's-eye view.



Midtown Composite (1997, detail) by Yvonne Jacquette

Her paintings soar above Manhattan, Chicago, or Washington, DC, swoop down on a garishly lit "Pleasure District" in Tokyo or an elegant view of San Francisco's Financial District. They expose the rare beauty of the patterns of nighttime illumination set against a dark background. Her "Times Square Triptych" breaks down the tawdry tangle of Broadway's Day-Glo colors into a set of abstract patterns which prove that she is more than a mere copier of reality. In reproduction, the oil paintings resemble pastel drawings, a visual similarity which, the artist told me, comes from a chronological evolution out of pastel drawing toward painting. The brushstrokes are not blended in the traditional manner of an oil painter, but are rather laid down precisely side-by-side. The overall visual effect is rather more like a low-key mosaic than an oil painting.

But the real surprise for the average viewer, who assumes, naturally enough, that Jacquette is

working from photographs, is that the compositions are based on location drawings made from airplanes or other high vantage points. In addition, what appear to be literal renderings of urban scenes or rural fields are in fact cut-and-pasted-together fantasy views, based on fact, but seriously tweaked by the artist. "There are a lot of different situations here, not just the aesthetic," the artist says. "Mixed Heights" of 1998, for example, looks down on the mansard roof of the nearby Cass Gilbert building, viewed from both the 81st and the 27th floors of the World Trade Center Building II. It is, of course, a viewpoint that sadly no longer exists. ▼

Aerial Muse: The Art of Yvonne Jacquette, at Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, through April 21. Admission free. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

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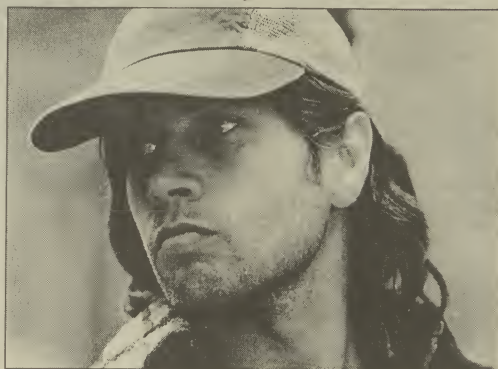
Morrisette's fast-food 'Scotland, PA'

While certainly not *Shakespeare for Dummies*, Billy Morrisette's comic updating of the Bard's darkest drama could fairly be called the Philly Cheesesteak MacBeth, a mostly droll satire on the '70s, the fast food industry, big-haired stadium rock, as well as the sartorial obsessions of young gay boys. In *Scotland, PA*, the couple that slays together, MacBeth and his nasty Lady, acquire first names Joe and Pat, bad haircuts, and the dubious pleasure of slaving away for would-be fast-food king Norm Duncan (James Rebhorn).

MacBeth, at his worst, holds a mirror up to our own darkest impulses. While not the brightest of Shakespeare's knaves, MacBeth commands us through the power of his imagination, a phantasmagorical journey into the nether reaches of the modern soul. *MacBeth* is a rich and expensive full-course dinner, while *Scotland, PA* encourages us to gorge on some tasty side dishes.

As soon as she hears the Hippies' prophecy, Pat (*ER*'s Maura Tierney) unsexes herself and pumps some backbone into her schlump of a hubby. When Duncan informs the McBeths that Joe will have to take a back seat in the business to his rock-musician son Malcolm (Tom Guiry), his fate is sealed (as a human French fry), and Joe and Pat buy Duncan's for a song from Norm's sons Malcolm and Donald (Geoff Dunsworth).

The only fly in the batter is Banco's suspicion that Joe and Pat know more about poor Duncan's descent into the deep-fryer than they're letting on. Enter Lt. Ernie McDuff (Christopher Walken), a character who represents the best and funniest of Morrisette's "improvements" on the Bard. Walken's McDuff, a low-key but dead-on parody of Peter Falk's Columbo, soon becomes everybody's buddy. Questioning Duncan's *tres gay* son (who practically



steals the movie with his school-boy lust for showtunes and '70s fashion), McDuff confides, "You know, Donald, I used to be a dancer." Malcolm, who aspires to front a cover band of Bad Company, is suspicious that the cop really wants to bust his father's killers. "Your water tastes like ass."

Scotland, PA is dead-on funny as long as it sticks to its *Malcolm in the Middle*-style nihilistic parody of both the clichés of Shakespeare and the pitfalls of pretentious updates of Shakespeare. Tierney and LeGros give Pat and Joe a sexy subtext as the perfect couple from Hell who probably could use the distraction of raising four hyperactive boys to keep them out of trouble. Tierney displays *Malcolm* star Jane Kaczmarek's knack for making a human cartoon seem all-too-real, while LeGros deftly turns Shakespeare's most dominating villain (MacBeth has a third of the play's

Ultimately, like a good fast food meal, *Scotland, PA* leaves us hungry for more than it can deliver — more bad rock, and especially more gay schoolboy angst. Failing to find a fate for Pat and Joe as sublime as Duncan's, the film finally just ends on a note that is neither comic nor tragic. Morrisette should have heeded the words of the Bard's original Malcolm: "Nothing in his life became him like the leaving of it." ▼

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Patriot games

by Victoria A. Brownworth

We admit it's a guilty pleasure, the Winter Olympics. Much as we enjoy watching the high-dives and sprinting (not to mention shotput and javelin throw) of the Summer Games, there's simply nothing like those spray-on latex, Gortex, every-text suits covering anatomies that would put a Michaelangelo sculpture to shame. Somehow watching

speed-skating is more fun than watching the meter dashes, ski jumps more thrilling than high-dives. And there is nothing in the Summer Games to equal the exquisite beauty of the figure skating or the wild insanity of the luge. The potential for devastating injury is high, the probability of breathtaking skill assured.

The Winter Games also have awesome opening ceremonies, and last week's spectacular opener in Salt Lake City helped mitigate the scandals that have plagued this particular Olympics. What with the 5,000 figure-skating participants and the 3,500-member Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the musical direction of John Williams, throwaway moments like that Gold Medalist of cellists, Yo-Yo Ma, playing with Sting, fireworks and other visual pyrotechnics, it was a gorgeous spectacle equal to the perfection of Nagano and grandeur of Lillehammer. It was so good, in fact, that George W. Bush's lackluster entry into Olympic history as the first US President to open an Olympic Games couldn't even spoil the moment.

There were marvelous and poignant events: the Olympic flag brought in by a panoply of multi-ethnic celebrities that included former Olympians as well as Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu, Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) and film mogul Steven Spielberg; the tattered flag from Ground Zero; a five-tribe Native American spirit dance; a skaters' hoedown to Copland's *Rodeo*. The display was uniquely American yet extraordinarily inclusive. Breathtaking.

The Winter Games are, not surprisingly, a strength for countries in colder climes (Norway maintains the record for most Olympic medals, with 240 at presstime); the US, always the leader in summer Olympic competitions, has never excelled in the winter sports. Nevertheless, the US is almost assured the figure-skating championship as Michelle Kwan skates her third Olympics, with her strongest competitor fellow American Sarah Hughes. The pairs-skate was a disappointment for Americans, as Keiko Ina and John Zimmerman, despite a lovely performance, were unable to break into the top four. But women's mogul skiing garnered a silver for the US as Californian Shannon Bahrke missed the gold by a mere 88th of a second. And that is she-or-isn't-she downhill racer, the luscious Picabo Street, has fabulous potential for yet another medal, as does heart-stopper skier Jeremy Bloom.

Show and tell

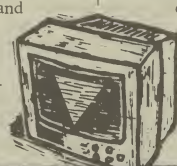
Given the speed issues involved in the Winter Games — medals are won and lost over less than a nanosecond — the use of performance-enhancing drugs is a constant concern. American bobsledder Todd Hays made news and created controversy with his exhortation of the Olympic Committee for allowing the sale of performance-enhancing products, from Powerade to Red Bull and protein bars, throughout the Salt Lake City venue. Hays was responding to the dismissal of a fellow bobsledder for using just such products. No doubt his show-



The opening ceremony in Rice-Eccles Stadium was sheer spectacle.

and-tell press conference (he began pulling products from his backpack and displaying them) won't sit well with the Olympic Committee; still, he's one of the favored Americans to win.

NBC has been doing fabulous coverage of the games, far superior to the most recent Summer Games. Bob Costas remains the best sportscaster in the business, and former Olympic medalists



Lavender Tube

Scott Hamilton, Peggy Fleming and Tracy Wilson are excellent commentators on skating. Of course, many San Franciscans are feeling renewed frustration after they lost NBC reception when the local affiliate switched to San Jose. Most European nations demand payment for basic TV access, which is government-regulated. In London and Paris, it costs hundreds of dollars a year. But in the US, unlimited free access to network TV seems almost a Constitutional guarantee — except in the eighth-largest Nielsen-share market in the US. While NBC's Pier 3 gala for the opening ceremonies was special, being able to sit home and tune in without paying for cable would be far superior. NBC needs to remember its market in the City by the Bay — the network with more gay characters than any other should be more cognizant of its queer base in SF.

Hype & Grace

Speaking of NBC, we were less than thrilled by the much-hyped episode of *Will & Grace* starring Matt Damon, in competition with Sean Hayes (Jack) for a spot in the Manhattan Gay Men's Chorus — which was (just like *W&G*) all-white. The *stuck*: Damon is playing gay because he loves choral music and has been ostracized by hets and queers alike for his passion.

Damon was terrific (we loved his protestation, "I'm as gay as the locker room at the Ice Capades!") as was Hayes, and no doubt Debra Messing (Grace), as the foil who outs him, enjoyed being fondled. But the resolution of the story had the choir director choosing the ousted Damon over the outing Jack.

Why didn't we like this? Because we're tired of assimilationist cant. Somehow we just can't see the inclusion of a white singer in the black gospel choir, a man in the women's choir, and so forth. There were a few amusing moments, but we're so over being expected to include straights when they don't include us. And we are even more over faggots going for cute straight men instead of supporting each other. This show sent the wrong message to all markets.

Meanwhile, we were pleased by last week's revelation on *All My Children* that Bianca didn't kill

her lover Frankie and that she didn't embrace Mom Erica for trying to cover for her. "When exactly did you think I became someone capable of murdering the girl I was in love with, huh, Mom?" she demanded at the end of Erica's trial. Nice.

And though we rarely approve of storylines involving long-lost twins, we actually like the return of Elizabeth Hendrickson as Frankie's estranged twin, Maggie. This means Bianca's queerness stays front-burner for yet another story cycle. Cool.

The next 10 days will be all Olympics, all the time, so if sports and hard bodies aren't your thing (are you *sure* you're queer?), now is the time to check out shows you haven't seen before or watched in a while. We'd suggest *Ellen*, but it finally got the ax. We recommend Fox's sci-fi hit *Dark Angel* and UPN's *Buffy*, the *Vampire Slayer*, both replete with queer characters, fast-pacing, more hard bodies and fabulous scripts. And next week, *Survivor* starts round four. This time, the contestants will have to find their own food.

Dark turn

When the Olympics are over and NBC returns to its regular line-up, we suggest getting riveted to *The West Wing*, which has taken an intriguingly dark turn, with President Bartlet hedging and vacillating on major political issues, just like real life. This show just gets sharper and sharper.

Something else that's getting sharper is Arianna Huffington's political voice. Her most recent appearance on *Politically Incorrect* was something to watch. Wasn't it yesterday that she was so conservative she made Jesse Helms look loose? The libertarian Huffington has expanded her political perspective dramatically in recent years. Her constant campaigning against conflict diamonds and big oil would rival a WTO anarchist. She's *soignée*, she's smart, and she's totally paying attention. Her exhortation of the Administration's linkage of the drug war to the war on terrorism was phenomenal. And like only a handful of politicians, she practices what she preaches. Formerly dripping with costly ice, she now sports cubic zirconia, and exhorts other women to do the same.

Finally, as the Olympics lead us to imagine peace can be achieved simply by turning conflicts into healthy competition, keep watching the news. There's still a war on, even though we hear little about it these days. Bush threw down the global gauntlet during his State of the Union message. The US economy is still in tatters. Watch the Games, glory in the bodies and their skills, but remember, while skiers fly through the air and skaters break new records for speed and endurance, thousands continue to die in conflicts these competing nations could stop, if only they chose to do so. ▼

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BOOKS

Campus theatre

by Jim Piechota

The Snow Garden by Christopher Rice; Talk/Miramax Books, \$23.95

Christopher Rice's second novel, after 2000's much-hyped *A Density of Souls*, delivers a playful, pansexual storyline under the guise of an earnest mystery—and it shouldn't be taken too seriously. It follows a gaggle of sexy, self-absorbed college students at prestigious Atherton University, a fictional, snowbound school somewhere in the Northeast.

The story's top honors go to hetero girl Katherine Parker and her gay best friend Randall Stone (the "Ice Queen"), who are trying to find some semblance of mean-

ing in their collegiate experience, along with their respective dormmates: April, a black radical lesbian, and Jesse, a humpy, "straight" sexual enigma.

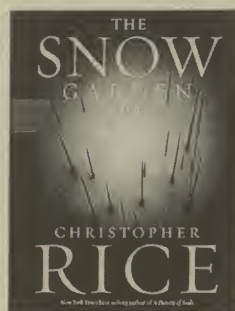
Randall is simply precious, hanging around sipping apple martinis, clutching his Prada satchel, and attempting to figure out why his affair with Eric Eberman, a married art-history professor, has ended with the death of Eric's wife, Lisa. She's driven off a bridge straight into the Atherton River, and everyone's wondering whether it was suicide, an accident, or worse. But she's left an "I-Know-What-You-Did-Last-Summer" note on the fridge ("I Saw I Know"), which could mean just about anything.

Eric's secret gay dalliances ("The body wasn't a trap, but a door to sensations he had denied

himself for far too long") and a drowning incident in his long-forgotten past mark him as a prime suspect in his wife's death, but then the spotlight begins to turn toward mysterious Randall, who, as it turns out, is not really Randall at all. Got all that?

After more than 300 pages, Rice finally dispenses a few mildly affecting plot twists, several slapdash disclosures, and, yes, definitive answers that are meant to soothe the curious reader, before closing the curtain on this long-winded, callow whodunit.

In the midst of all the melodrama there are pockets of sheer silliness that may or may not have been Rice's intention. A prime example is Kathryn pondering the vain nature of queer boys: "Did all gay men worship perfectly proportioned men who wore inscrutable,



distant facial expressions that suggested they were not just inaccessible but physically indestructible?"

Ultimately, what we're left with is a whole lot of pomp and not much circumstance. Still, if you're an economy passenger squished on a transcontinental flight or a stud sunburning down at the beach, *The Snow Garden* could probably provide the empty calories you'll be craving. ▼

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Maybe it was countered by the fact that there was so much buzz about it being by Anne Rice's son."

Currently living in LA, where he moved during the course of the eight months in which he wrote his second novel, Rice is committed to *The Snow Garden* becoming a film.

In the company of famous children of the famous, from Liza Minnelli to Jane Fonda to Melissa Rivers, Chastity Bono, Sean and Julian Lennon, and Christina Crawford, Christopher Rice admits that sometimes "I don't know if I am being taken seriously." But his compelling fiction would find an adult readership regardless of the name on the book jacket. ▼

Christopher Rice will read and sign copies of *The Snow Garden* on March 7 at A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books in San Francisco.

Christopher Rice

◀ Arts cover

family moved to New Orleans. There he grew into the high school drama queen, much like the character in his first novel Stephen Conlin, whose father also happens to be a poet. In fact, it was Rice's failure to be cast in a college theatre production at Brown University, a school not unlike the Atherton of his new novel, that first led him to writing

in a serious way. "I wasn't called back for the *Arcadia* audition. I was crushed. So I thought, I've always written in my spare time. This is something I can do, alone in my dorm room, that no one can reject right now. I ended up writing a screenplay that I don't even want to read now."

Flake out

Dropping out of Brown after his first year, he transferred into NYU's film school to pursue his first love. "I was a child of the

movies and not of books. I really only became a bookworm my first year in college," says the literary scion. "[My parents] might have actually turned me off to reading in a weird way. Not because they tried to force it down my throat, but it's like the child of whoever invented corn flakes isn't going to want to eat corn flakes."

At film school he developed "a big crisis in confidence and dropped out. I didn't know where I was going or what I was going to do next. I ended up writing a novel, *A Density of Souls*, which I never planned to do."

With his books centering on gay characters and being gay himself, Rice admits that "I was expecting it to be a huge disadvantage. I frankly didn't think as many people were going to read *A Density of Souls* as did. I was surprised at the number of straight friends and straight family members who immediately read it, and read it straight through. I thought it was going to be a big drawback.

paying gig in a Long Island production of, yes, *Pippin*.

Randolph-Wright really did climb his way up from the chorus, which, on Broadway, included the excitement of *Dreamgirls*. Soon he was off exploring stranger territories.

He played a psychic screenwriter in a no-longer-remembered production of *Tequila!* in LA. He provided choreography for other LA shows with such titles as *Cabaret Verboten* and *Stand-Up Tragedy*. And his early directing credits include *The Horrible and Tragic Life of the Singing Nun* and a show built around drag artist Coco Peru. In a more sedate vein, he recently staged a national tour of *Guys and Dolls* starring Maurice Hines, and the jukebox revue *Me and Mrs. Jones* starring Lou Rawls.

"Do I have a gay aesthetic?" he repeated in response to a question. "I think I have every aesthetic. Growing up in the South at the height of affirmative action, I was constantly affronted with being aware that I was the talented black student. I'm a proponent of affirmative action, but you can get boxed in."

Randolph-Wright used the theater to explain his background in the autobiographical play *Blue*, seen in New York last year. Again, he was accused of presenting an unrealistic portrait of African-American life. A couple of friends also questioned why he didn't make the play's boy-protagonist gay.

"I said because it's not the issue of the play. It's about the relationship between a son and his mother. The next play, another play, will be about being black and gay. I haven't done that world yet." ▼

Blithe Spirit will run at the Geary Theatre Feb. 21-March 24. Tickets are \$11-\$61. Call 749-2228.

Randolph-Wright

◀ page 27

people like me in England in that time frame who were friends with Noel Coward, who were sleeping with Noel Coward."

Coward was gay, and his plays reflect that to different degrees, but Randolph-Wright, who is also gay, isn't punching up that point. "*Design for Living* is a very different play because of its implied sexuality," he said. "I've read things that said *Blithe Spirit* is about Coward's relationships with women, but that's not this play to me."

He also thought Charles Condomine was a good fit with Gregory Wallace, whom he has previously directed in Robert O'Hara's time-traveling *Insurrection: Holding History*, and in that tennis-anyone production of *Tartuffe*.

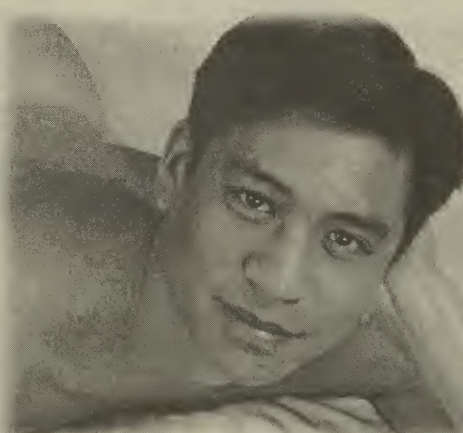
"The role of Charles has a certain sensibility that Greg understands," his director said. "Charles is dealing with issues of being an artist, of fitting in, and all these things he has dealt with and may have hidden. Greg is so completely able to imbue the character with all these different colors."

Sticking point

Randolph-Wright, now 45, first came under the spell of *Blithe Spirit* when he saw it 20 years ago at the National Theatre in London. "It's one of those seminal production that sticks with you," he said, "especially when you're just starting in the business and you see something that changes you, like *A Chorus Line*, and for me *Blithe Spirit* had that kind of effect."

An earlier heart-stopper was *Pippin*, which the young Randy Wright saw in a touring production with Ben Vereen while he was a pre-med student at Duke University. His parents weren't too happy when he opted for the theater, which soon included a

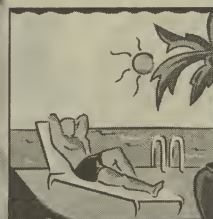
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The young and restless

by Jim Nawrocki

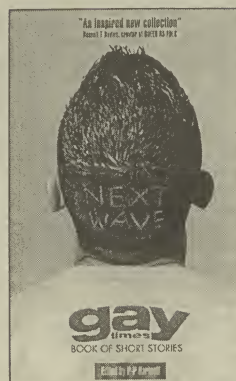
The Next Wave: The Gay Times Book of Short Stories, edited by P-P Hartnett; Gay Times, \$14.95

On the inside flap of the cover for *The Next Wave*, there's an arrangement of pictures of each of the 28 gay male authors in the collection. They're all young and fresh-faced, each one under the age of 25. With a few exceptions, they're all white, and almost all hail from somewhere in the United Kingdom. Taken together, they present an interesting portrait of what it's like to be a young gay man in this world of reality TV, cell phones and the Internet.

Like his counterparts for many anthologies of queer writing, the editor P-P Hartnett makes it clear that his is not just an anthology of "gay" writing, but also of stories dealing with the bisexual, transgender and "questioning" individual. In his very brief introduction to the collection, Hartnett makes the curious point that it represents "a vast, diverse and growing anti-assimilationist queer movement far away from the Budweiser-sponsored pride parades." It's always been the place of youth to tilt at the windmill of the status quo, and Hartnett's comment seems to indicate a certain amount of restlessness within the current generation of under-25 gay men. The stories in the collection more or less bear him out.

As might be expected, the quality of the writing is somewhat uneven. Most of the writers in *The Next Wave* are being published for the first time, and they are getting acquainted with the forms of fiction as much as they are with the nature of their own sexuality. But there's an earnestness to these tales that is refreshing and revealing. They deal with many topics that would be expected in an anthology like this: coming out, dealing with parents, first loves, and so on.

Anthony Baulch's "Telling Mother," for example, is a sweetly rendered story about the ordeal of coming out to a parent, and Baulch does a good job of capturing the angst and heartache, but also the redemptive quality, that comes with revelation. Other stories explore the thrill of school-room lust, and the traumas of first love, all with that certain breath-



less quality that comes with youth. David Gue's "Men at Work" takes place in post-college years, but it's imbued with the sense of one just coming in to the world. It's the story of an office romance that ends in a heated, nicely described erotic encounter.

Looking for love

Not all the contributions are concerned with the delights of love, of course. These writers also tackle the confusion, and the darker side, that can come with being young, gay and looking for fulfillment. David Watkins' "Girl" explores the issues associated with androgyny. "So I'm the boy," it begins, "and I'm fingering this boy but he is a girl tonight." A complicated scenario, to be sure. Other stories touch upon the issue of gay bashing, such as Gordon Beeferman's "Scar Tissue."

One of the notable characteristics of the gay fiction in this anthology is the tendency of these young authors to use cultural references to mark their generational territory. "Mark reached into his

CAT bag and whipped out his mobile," writes Miles Donohoe of the main character of "RU FREE 2MORO NITE?" As the title implies, text messaging plays an important role in advancing the plot of this story, and it makes an appearance in several others as well. More than any that has come before it, it seems as if the current under-25 generation identifies most strongly with the products and technology that it uses.

It's even safe to say that shorthand Webspeak and text messaging have had an influence on the way these young men communicate and interact. It's a part of their culture, and perhaps part of the way they think and see the world. A few of the writers, such as Nishan Ramaindran in his story "Boy, Manson Is Gonna Fuck You," experiment with the form of fiction itself, offering selections that are part prose poem, performance piece and dramatic monologue. In this sense, the book certainly does represent "the next wave" of gay fiction.

Whatever new forms gay fiction evolves into, however, it will probably always have its genesis in those issues that each gay generation must experience and define for itself: coming out (to oneself, and to others), finding love, losing love and getting on in the world. *The Next Wave* is truly a book for young gay men. It offers them the chance to experience, through the special qualities of fiction, just what being gay means for others who are also coming to terms with it. While it may serve the useful purpose of educating them about aspects of gay life they may be unfamiliar with, it also helps them with that even more important and valuable task: reaffirming those facts of life that we each have to contend with as we grow up. ▼

Eva Hesse

◀ page 30

rubberized rope tangles, like the untitled work from 1970 that closes the show, which are modern art history's defining illustrations of chaos.

White on white

It is surprising to learn that one of the 20th century's foremost interpreters of three-dimensional space considered her work in its

many variations to be extensions of painting rather than sculpture. Many of her works feature as much subtraction as they do addition. And even in the simplest drawings, there is often a subtext in which there is far more than meets the eye. It appears very much like a work by Hesse's friend, the artist Robert Rymen, but infrared examination of a white-on-white *Untitled* drawing from 1968 reveals that it is in fact a study of the artist's studio floor,

next page ►

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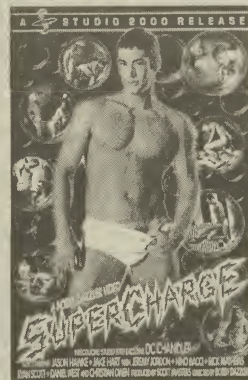
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Kylie's fever

Aussie pop princess at play in new album

by Alex Robertson Textor

San Francisco author Kevin Killian recently wrote of Kylie Minogue, "Kylie is some strange fantasy of dislocation, weakness and timidity who first made it big on the Australian soap opera *Neighbours* in the late '80s and who isn't real big in America." Killian's fantasy of Kylie may be the province of his own relationship to the star, but he's certainly got her history down.

Minogue splashed out of soapland in 1987 with a lighthearted cover version of Little Eva's 1962 smash "The Locomotion." "Locomotion" went on to become the best-selling single of the '80s in Australia. It also got her noticed by UK producers Stock, Aiken and Waterman, kingmakers of late '80s pop.

The album Waterman and Associates hauled Kylie in to sing did

the trick, launching her to massive UK success and establishing her as a star in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. Kylie's first album, released in the US in 1988 on Geffen, spawned three US singles, though only "Locomotion" was a considerable Stateside hit. Kylie was dropped by Geffen in 1990, effectively consigning her to underground icon status in the US.

Through the early '90s, Kylie managed to chameleon her way through a series of images and massive single hits. It was when she decided to morph into an indie chanteuse that her career shifted course and the hits got smaller. In this guise she turned up some interesting work in collaborations with Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Towa Tei, and the Manic Street Preachers. Kylie returned to the sheer pop train in 2000 with the release of *Light Years*, at which point she re-entered the pop imagination as

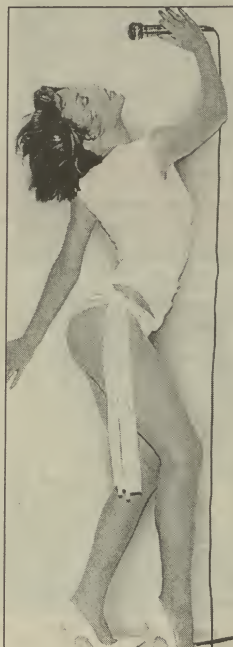
something like Britney's older sister or youngest aunt.

The key to Kylie's appeal is her willingness to enter the construction of sex kittenness with more than a wink, embracing the constructedness of image-creation without succumbing to it completely. Such a project is extremely risky. For Kylie, it has worked. The surest sign of its success is Kylie's achievement of style-magazine coolness. Note Kylie, almost naked, on the huge *Face* magazine posters now covering San Francisco.

Glitterball Kylie

In her most recent incarnation, Kylie is a disco creature. On the cover of the European release of *Fever*, the graphics are low-tech. She's simply, overdramatically leaning back to sing in white pumps, wearing a T-shirt and some kind of sash. It's a stark, graphically disco composition. One can easily picture Olivia Newton-John striking the same pose in 1979. A satin headband would complete the retro-association.

Musically, *Fever* is as satisfying as an album about nothing can be. The songs are quite similar to one another, energetic yet controlled. When disco enters a 21st-century blender, this is what happens. The lead single, "Can't Get You Out of My Mind," organizes the rest of the album. Some of these tracks ("More More More" and "In Your Eyes") recall Moloko, whose "Sing It Back" gently ripped dancefloors



Kylie Minogue as disco creature

with much better (and, obviously, contemporary) production. The title track takes a few more chances, slowing down for a few breathy words that certify Kylie's Australianness. "Fever" is the best moment on *Fever*, innovative enough to be another monster single, perfectly ideal pop music for summery afternoons ahead.

In sum, this album is able and pleasing. It's a concept-driven album — that is, if disco queen-dom can be made into a theme. Best yet, Kylie's *Fever* sports none of the pretensions of Madonna's disco return with *Music*. *Fever* is also the product of very solid record company support. Parlophone rushed this out just a year after *Light Years*, Kylie's previous offering, apparently determined to resuscitate her stardom. It's worked. The album has sold very well globally, and "Can't Get You Out" has topped singles sales charts around the world. Another index of Parlophone's faith in Kylie can be found in the fact that the US version of *Fever* (released by Capitol) is identical to the European release, not a combination of the strongest tracks of *Fever* and *Light Years*.

Can *Fever* establish Kylie in the US? The pickings couldn't be worse for a pop artist. The pop bubble burst sometime last year. But "Can't Get" is a huge dance-floor smash right now, and radio is catching on. *Fever* is released domestically on February 26. ▼

Lush Lounge

◀ Arts cover

degree of affection for the music.

The scene is very mixed along the gay/straight axis. Performers explain little things to the audience: why one is wearing an arm brace; why another has chosen a particular song. It's cross-demographically familiar and very crowded, the way few public club spaces in San Francisco feel.

Heart space

Richard Nickol, the Artistic Director of San Francisco Academy for the Performing Arts, coordinates the *Live* series. His inspiration and purpose for the series are both uncomplicated. "We're trying to create a place where people can share their hearts and their voices regardless of their talent level or expertise, a place where people can sing all kinds of music, including opera, musical theatre, and pop music."

That's where virtuoso pianist and cabaret veteran John Florencio comes in. Florencio's wide range as a pianist is called on by the breadth of material. Clearly, Florencio loves playing for the *Live* crowd. "I like working with all types of singers," he says, adding that the *Live* crowd is so enjoyable because "the singers really seem to enjoy themselves." That enjoyment is palpable, and it extends

from amateurs to professionals.

Many amateurs sing at the *Live* series, though plenty of professionals, including several musical theatre casts, show up as well. "The casts love it because it reminds them of New York," Nickol notes. He stresses that "we're striving to make it one of a kind, a place with its own flavor with everyone being so open and caring, and the energy is so high."

Describing the series as "a labor of love," Nickol gets to the core of the series: "Basically what we try to do is give people experience and exposure, a place to be seen and heard, a place to share and have a good time." The *Live* series and the Lush Lounge itself are still for the most part local secrets, though this is about to change.

The Wednesday night series will soon be immortalized on film in a documentary by Richard O'Connell of the Independent Television Service, and Niamh O'Sullivan, among others. Following several local singers on their quests for fame, the documentary, being shot in part at the Lush Lounge, is currently in production. So catch the Lush Lounge now before it becomes even more swamped than it currently is. ▼

The Lush Lounge, 1100 Polk St., is open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., seven days a week. Telephone is (415) 771-2022.

made of rubberized cheesecloth as it begins to peel or, literally, drip? How does one address a tangle of cords which were once flexible and are now rigid?

And what to do as it becomes clear that a Hesse can no longer be exhibited at all? Convincing lenders to allow these fragile works to travel became a full-time job for the show's organizers. The answers to these questions, whose layers of complexity mirror those of the artworks themselves, are included in the catalog in a transcription of that symposium.

The good news is that many of them are, somewhat miraculously, present at SFMOMA, but they are probably grouped together for the last time here, and at Museum Wiesbaden, Germany, later this year. New York's Whitney Museum notoriously withdrew from its planned participation in the show, citing budget constraints. ▼

Eva Hesse

◀ previous page

planks and all, painted white in anticipation of a gallery installation.

This story is told in one of the more fascinating chapters of the exhibition catalog (edited by curator Elisabeth Sussman), titled "Play and Interplay: Hesse's Artistic Method." I was given a gallery tour by its authors, Jill Sterrett, head of conservation, and Associate Objects Conservator Michelle Barger. Both of them had their hands full during the three years of planning this complex show of disintegrating objects. Sterrett and Barger instigated a New York roundtable whose purpose was to address the fact that many of Hesse's works were born to self-destruct. What do curators and collectors do about sculptures

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Black Kali Ma — rocking in the name of the goddess

Rock monsters

In the ancient Chinese martial/healing art Chi Kung, practitioners are taught that "where the mind goes, the energy flows." Well, our collective minds are going to hell, bombarded as they are with hopeless messages — "buy this," "do this," "don't do this," "worry about this," "sell yourself into debt slavery," "surrender to warmongering," etc. — and with nowhere to hide. At day's exhausting end we slouch on the couch, pop on the tube, and let GE and GM suck out our brains. Life is brutal, then you reincarnate. As the late, great Peggy Lee asked: Is that all there is?

Yes, apparently that's it, the whole shebang — which is why rock bands exist: to sodomize our minds and make us feel better. Rather than get on their knees to pray for our salvation, rock stars thrust out their hips to our slurpy lips. For as long as we inhabit their space, they're the chi that moves us. The power of their amps ensures they penetrate our consciousness. We are their begging bottoms.

As I write, I'm thinking about "Monsters of Gay Rock 2" — a slurpacious queer bash coming up this Friday, February 15 at the Covered Wagon Saloon (917 Folsom St.). One of the bands on the line-up, **Pansy Division**, now occupies a secure place in queer history and popular imagination, having pioneered the "queercore" sound in the early 1990s, which launched them to global stardom and countless blow jobs. I've seen guitarist/vocalist **Jon Ginoli** and bassist/vocalist **Chris Freeman** in full hard-on Pansy Division action, and can assure you they're tops.

While I've never experienced the other bands on the line-up live, I've got their albums, and these guys are a regular Nirvana of hard-driving, highly listenable, super energetic punk- and blues-based rock served up with an ecstatic storm of guitars and drums, plus powerful vocalizing. **ing** (Liberty, Smyle Records) and **Black Kali Ma** (You Ride The Pony, I'll Be The Bunny, Alternative Tentacles Records) both have big, hearty, bearish sounds, befitting their figures and dispositions. Their albums are lush with manly/boyish energy, exuding a seductive mix of angst, despair, hope, love and other real-life feedback. I'd suck their metaphorical cocks in a second.

Gary Floyd of Black Kali Ma organized this Monster of Gay Rock bash, so I guess he has the biggest metaphorical cock of the bunch. Still, it was lead guitarist **Mark Smotroff** of ing (which he co-founded with vocalist **Sean Mylett**) who turned me on to this show and all its great music, so obviously his [th]ing is the most divine. ▼

"Monsters of Gay Rock 2" happens Fri., Feb. 15 at CW Saloon, 917 Folsom St., 9:30 p.m. \$8. Info: www.blackkalima.com; www.ingdom.com; www.pansydivision.com



ing — at liberty in their ingdom



Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AlRspace Artist-in-Residence Kevin Ottem-Fox presents "Andrognykka! The Hello Tour!" This work in progress, a bizarre cabaret play, takes a breezy look at God, civil war and bad musical comedies. The disingenuously gendered Andrognykka tours the US to raise consciousness about the curious plight of Chetkruporhthkrthsrthkrthtusk, an extremely obscure Eastern European nation. Ottem-Fox is the author of ten full-length plays and numerous one-acts. His work has been presented in SF at the Marsh and Climate theaters. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Shelton Theatre

Extended run: "Are We Almost There?" It's a musical comedy revue about the joys and frustrations of travel, written and directed by composer/lyricist Morris Bobrow, winner of three SFBA Theatre Critics Circle Awards and two Drama-Logue Awards. \$21 adv; \$23 door Fri. & Sat.; \$19 & \$21 Thu. 8pm. Thru March 30. 533 Sutter St. Tix/info: 345-7575.

Books Inc., Castro

Brian Bouldrey (Love, The Magician), reads from and discusses his latest book, *Monster: Adventures in American Machismo*. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. Info: 864-6777.

Under One Roof

"First Ladies Day Warehouse Sale," a benefit for some 50 AIDS service providers in Northern California, featuring merchandise donated from Fancy Food show, the SF Int'l. Gift Fair, showrooms at the Gift Center, and major SF retailers. Prices start at 25 cents, with most items at a fraction of suggested retail. 100% of the profits go to agencies that serve hot meals, send children with AIDS to summer camp, and perform other good deeds. Thru Mon., Feb. 18. 10am-8pm (11am-7pm Sun.), 549 Castro St. (btwn 18th & 19th).

Brava Theater Center

Brava! For Women in the Arts presents "A Special Evening for Peace in Afghanistan," featuring renowned poet/translator Coleman Barks, one of the leading interpreters of Rumi,

the 13th-century Persian poet and mystic. Barks will be accompanied on vocals and harmonium by celebrated world music recording artist Jai Uttal, a sacred music composer, multi-instrumentalist and ecstatic vocalist (his brand-new album, *Mondo Rama*, on the Narada label, merits a big thumbs up). Adding a unique spin to the event will be aerial dancers Jo Kreiter and Fly-away Productions, featuring Kreiter, Christine Chen, Rachel Shaw, and Dominique Zeltzman. Rumi, one of the great gay mystics, is famed for his 70,000 verses of poetry expressing divine love, mystic passion, ecstatic illumination, and reverence for his master, the mystic Shams of Tabriz. Says Barks:

"Rumi's branch of Islam is the cure for Talibanism. It's the exact opposite of fundamentalist zealotry. It's the part that dances in the street and embraces everyone. Its followers live in the moment." \$30 (\$26 seniors/students). 8pm. Also on Sat., Feb. 16 at 8pm, with a special reading and audience conversation with Barks at 1pm (\$8). 2789 24th St. (at York St.). Tix/info: 392-4400; www.brava.org

Herbst Theatre

Guest conductor Eduardo López Banzo leads Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in the modern-day premiere of Antonio Llórente's Spanish Baroque zarzuela *Júpiter y Semele*, featuring guest sopranos Marta Almajano, Lola Casariego and Mimi Ruiz. This rich, rhythmic music-theater piece tells the story of the love between the god Jupiter and the beautiful Semele, princess of Thebes. This alliance torments Jupiter's wife Juno, and she and Cupid conspire to separate the lovers, resulting in Semele's demise. \$33-\$48. 8pm. Van Ness & McAllister. Tix/info: 392-4400; www.philharmonia.org

University of Creation Spirituality, Oakland

Study series: "The Light of Islam: Creation-centered Spiritual Tradition in the Path of Peace." Dr. Ana Perez-Chisti leads the first of a five-part series on the five pillars of Islam. Featuring readings from the Koran and practices (including music and mantra) to deepen each point. Perez-Chisti is a Sufi Movement International lineage holder, interfaith minister, writer, lecturer, practicing psychologist, dancer, yogi, and black belt in Karate. \$10-\$15 donation. 7-9pm.



Adrienne H. Peterson's "Leavings" hang at Pick Me Up Café. See Saturday.

2141 Broadway, Oakland (2 blks. north of 19th St. BART). Info: (510) 435-4827, ext. 29; www.creation-spirituality.com

Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center, CCAC

Readings by poets Andrew Maxwell (*Radiant species*), and Liz Waldner (*Horning Devices*). \$5-\$10 sliding. 7:30pm. 111 Eighth St. Info: 551-9278; www.sptraffic.org

Randall Museum Theater

The Randall Museum and Young Audiences of the Bay Area present "Family Arts in Action: African-American New Vaudeville Performer Derique," who will take kids and their families on a wild, wacky ride through the world of physical comedy and body percussion. His hip style of circus arts educates and entertains while illuminating the history of African American clowns, minstrels, and the art of body percussion called "Ham Bone." \$6 adults; \$4 kids ages 2-12; free under 2. 1pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Info: 554-9600; www.randall-museum.org

Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

The Strybing Arboretum Society presents "Hot Plants for A Cool Climate," a gardening workshop focusing on the arboretum's Mesoamerican Cloud Forest, designed by landscapers Feyerabend & Madden collaborating with Strybing's horticulture staff.

\$45. 9am-1:30pm. 9th Ave. at Lincoln, Golden Gate Park. Registration/info: 661-1316.

Main Library

The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center presents "Bears at the Library," a reception and reading for the new anthology *Bears on Bears* (Alyson), featuring many Bay Area contributors, led by editor Ron Suresha. Held in conjunction with the opening of the International Bear Rendezvous 2002 at the nearby Ramada (www.bosf.org). Free. 4-6pm. Room B.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

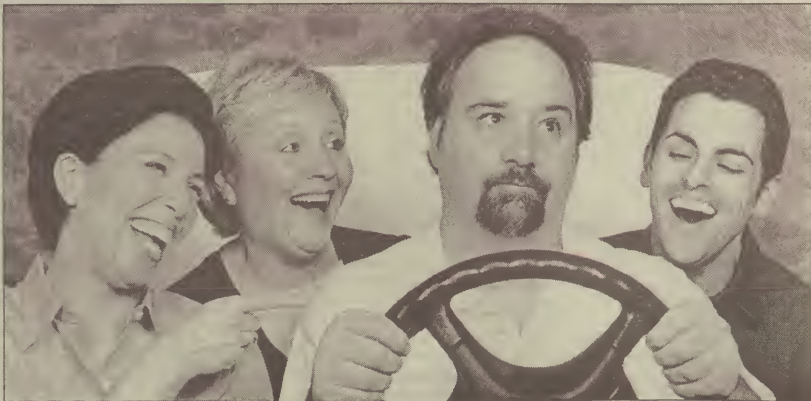
Reading: "An evening with Carmelita Tropicana." The Obie award-winning writer and performance artist will offer performance and dramatic readings from *CHICAS 2000*, a sci-fi comedy for today's refined gays, combining the sensibility of a Mexican soap opera with the tasteless zest of a John Waters film, and her new work-in-progress, *A Tail of Two Cities*, which presents the Elian Gonzalez story from the perspective of Martina, a roach, and her best friend Catalina, a parrot. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Canvas Cafe

Divabands presents a singer/songwriter showcase featuring Kenni, Liz Anah, Mary Kelly, and Pi. Free. 8pm. 1200 9th Ave. (at Lincoln). Info: 504-0060; www.divabands.com

Pick Me Up Café

Opening reception: "Leavings," paintings by Adrienne H. Peterson, whose modernist abstract and semi-abstract



"Are We Almost There Yet?" plays at The Shelton Theater. See Friday.



Pippi Lovestocking & Heklina celebrate six years of Trannyshack. See Tuesday. Remember when they still looked young?

works are reminiscent of Diebenkorn's "Ocean Park" series. The highlight of this hanging is a towering elephant of abstract design, painted on an enormous canvas. Free. 6-9pm. 298 9th St. (at Folsom). Info: 864-7425.

SF LGBT Community Center
Q-Force presents "The Queer Love Connection," a night of fun match-making hosted by Johnny Kat and Woody Goods. Audience participation encouraged as they match up couples in several rounds. Q-Force is a volunteer organization for persons 18-28 focusing their creative power towards social change. Free. 7:30-10pm. 1800 Market St. Info: 626-7075; www.geocities.com/qforce

ATA Gallery
Other Cinema presents "The Subject Is Sex," a 2-hour survey of polymorphous erotic oddities from the vast collection of Stephen Parr of Oddball Films. Expect cartoon smut, artists' sketches, home movies, sex-ed classics, educational ("How to Give An Enema"), and more. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

Workshop: Cuban born writer and performance artist Carmelita Tropicana (Alina Troyano) leads participants through a series of exercises to create text. \$25. 2-5pm. 1519 Mission St. Registration: 554-0402.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Point Reyes hike. Enjoy fresh salty air, great ocean views and lush forest trails. It's a leisurely/moderate 10-mile hike with less than a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am at the bottom of the Rockridge BART station escalator. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

King Street Garage

Sundance Saloon, in conjunction with Gyr!s Golf, presents the "Sweetheart's Ball," featuring Country-Western vocalist Donna Boatman, a benefit for the Bay Area Breast Cancer Network. Bring your sweetheart or find yourself one at Sundance Saloon. \$8. C-W dance lessons with Carolyn Carvajal 6-7:30pm; open C-W dancing 7:30-11pm. 174 King St. (near 3rd St.). Info: 699-5764; sundancesa-

loon.org

Mon 18

Intersection for the Arts

Campo Santo and Intersection present the world premiere of Greg Sarris' *Mission Indians*, directed by Nancy Benjamin and Margo Hall, featuring Gabriela Barragan, Catherine Castellanos, Louis Parnell, Luis Sagar, Sean San José and Michael Torres, with live music by Heath Wood. *Mission Indians* tells the story of three generations of mixed-race California Indians, using the magic and symbolism of native storytelling. \$9-\$15 sliding (Thursdays are "Pay What You Can"). 8pm. Thu-Sun. thru March 11. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th sts.). Tix/info: 626-3311.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

San Francisco Contemporary Music Players present "Big Bang," an evening of new music. Featuring percussionist William Winant and 14 drums in the first performance of *Gris-Gris* by New York music maverick John Zorn. Plus: Daniel Kennedy performs Iannis Xenakis' tour de force for percussion. Also: world premieres from Cindy Cox (for sax, percussion,

piano, bass and tape), Robert greenberg (piano & string trio), and Wayne Peterson. \$18 (\$14 seniors; \$7 students). 8pm. 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-ARTS; www.yerbabuenaarts.com

Tue 19

The Stud

Heklina presents the "Trannyshack Six Year Anniversary," with celebrity co-hostess Pippi Lovestocking, featuring Deena Davenport, Putanesca, Precious Moments, lady Sergio, Peaches Christ, Metal Patricia, Vinsantos, Bea Dazzler and more. A salute to the greatest Trannyshack hits of the past year. Miss Chocolate takes your money at the door. DJ Pinkyrring spins out. \$7. 10pm-3am. 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

The Booksmith

LAMBDA literary-award winning author Sarah Waters (*Tipping the Velvet*; *Affinity*) reads from her new work, *Fingersmith*, a tale of swindle, fortunes, and hearts won and lost, set in Victorian London among a family of thieves. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. Info: 863-8688; www.booksmith.com

Wed 20

Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library

Reading: *Out in the Castro: Desire, Promise, Activism*. Authors will read from Winston Leyland's new anthology about America's most famous GLBT Community. 7pm. 3555 16th Street (between Market and Sanchez) For info: Karen Sundheim, 554-9445

Quaker Meeting House

Speak Out: "HIV and Hepatitis C: A Medical Crisis in California Prisons," organized by the HIV/Hepatitis C in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus. Former prisoners will offer testimony about life in the pen with lack of adequate medical care for HIV/Hepatitis C. Advocates. Donation requested (NO-TAFLOR). 6:30pm. 65 9th St. Info: (510) 665-1935; www.prisonfocus.org/hivinfo.htm

The Stud

"Stood Up," an obnoxious evening of stand up comedy hosted by Pippi Lovestocking. Every third Wednesday. \$5 cover. 21+ w/D. 9th & Harrison.

Thu 21

Tenderloin Aids Resource Center

Community Forum: New Leaf Services hosts a public discussion on "Substance Use Issues in the Transgender Community," featuring panelists Miss Major, Patrick Califia-Rice, and Chenoa Blot. Free. 6:30-8pm. 187 Golden Gate Ave. Info: Mark, 626-7000 ext. 404.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



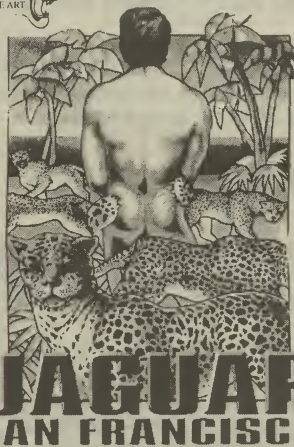
Coleman Barks interprets Rumi at Brava Theatre Center. See Friday

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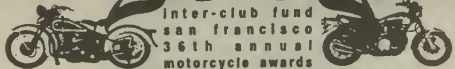
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It's a chain reaction!

by Mister Marcus

One after another the contests and parties keep coming. As this busy weekend indicates, keeping up with all the leather/bear/kink action will be a matter of making big choices as to which event you want to and are able to attend. The chain reaction this week extends from San Francisco to Los Angeles to Chicago.

Here in Faghdad-by-the-Bay, Mr. Leather of San Francisco Houston Davenport steps down from his Mr. Powerhouse Leather 2002 title on Friday around 2000. The same night, there's a "cigar" party (yeah, right!) at The Sling, with a \$20 cover charge. Over at the Women's Building, the Exiles hold forth with "Hot Wax, Ice and Cupping," all featuring "Domina."

Also in San Francisco, International Bear Rendezvous kicks off on Friday with a plethora of bear-oriented activities, and culminates Sunday with the International Bear Competition. Some 500 bears are expected to take part in the festivities, which include a "Sweat" bear dance party for \$15 at Club Townsend to benefit Positive Resources.

On Saturday, the SF Inter-Club Fund stages their annual Motorcycle Awards at Most Holy Redeemer Church auditorium and earlier in the day, the Pegasus Motorcycle Owners Club takes off on the 3-bridges run to Oakland Hills and Chabot Space & Science Museum.

On Sunday, the Constantines MC celebrate their 35th anniversary with a posh gathering at Stern Grove, no less, by invitation or wearing your club overlay.

Farther afield

In Chicago, the premiere event is the Cell Block's Leatherfest 2002 featuring three days of madness as only the world-famous Cell Block can do it. It kicks off with a joint reception on Friday night for judges, contestants and Pantheon of Leather nominees. On Saturday afternoon comes the Pantheon of Leather awards ceremony, and that night is when everything comes to a head with the Mr. Cell Block Leatherman


Leather

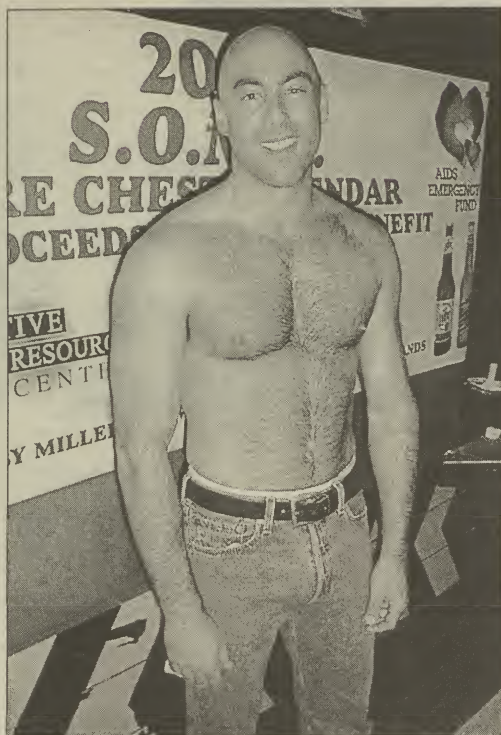
2002 contest, during which Marc Rosenberg passes the sash to a successor.

In Los Angeles at the Gauntlet II, one of the most popular of the Los Angeles Leather contestants last year, Robert Blackmon steps aside from his Mr. Sisters Leather title. Robert has emerged as a very popular and well-liked leather activist in the Los Angeles basin and receives high praise for his title year.

Everyone who survives this weekend deserves a medal.

Daddy's Mr. Leather

On Friday, February 8, three men got into the race for the Mr. Daddy's Leather 2002 contest. It



Tim Chanaud of San Jose is Mr. March 2003 on the SOMA bare chest calendar. He won out over 10 other contestants. Mr. April 2003 will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday, February 21.

was a delight to serve on the judging panel with Skeeter Wildman, Dan Hughes, Mr. Leather of all California Kevin Casey and Bruce Chopnik. An enthusiastic crowd witnessed the spectacle and cheered for the men.

In his very succinct stepping aside speech, Chris Ross, ever eloquent, managed to cover all the bases, including getting in zings at those detractors of his year with the title. Some of them probably didn't even know they were being zapped big time during his nine-minute speech. But the knowledgeable gossip mavens in attendance got the message(s), and there were a lot of oohs and aaahs heard throughout. Donna Sachet actually got booed when she shouted, "What page are we on now?" with a very crisp and terse

next page ►

E V E N T U R E S I N L E A T H E R

Friday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day! The San Franciscans MC present a beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1900 to 2300 for only \$5. Local rock heroes Blue Period perform their brand of glamorous kick-ass glitz "rock, along with 78 RPM and Dulcinea. Be there.

Weekend, February 15-17

It's all happening: the Pantheon of Leather weekend in Chicago (I'll be there judging the Mr. Cell Block Leather Contest); the Mr. Sister Leather contest in LA; and here in SF, the ICF Motorcycle Awards; the Mr. Powerhouse Leather contest; the International Bear Rendezvous; the Pegasus MOC bike run; Constantines 35th anniversary party; the Cigar Sex Party; and the Bear "Sweat" dance at Club Townsend

Don't forget to vote for Colette LeGrand for Empress!

Sunday, February 17

Robert Davolt's "Survival Kit" fundraiser at Daddy's, an auction created by personalities of leather and otherwise.

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Michael Schaefer's "beat me Daddy" benefit happens at Marlena's from 1800-2100, with a leather auction, surprises — and flog young Michael!

Wednesday, February 20

Underwear Buddies show off their skivvies at 933 Harrison. Mandatory clothes check, doors open 2100-2300. Call 777-HEAD.

Thursday, February 21

Mr. April 2003 Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Powerhouse at 2130. Win \$100 and eternal glory. See judges above.

Weekend, February 22-24

The 15 Association's anniversary with a banquet at Fort Mason Officer's Club on Friday, play parties both Sat. and Sun.

Mr. Bears Ventura contest at Paddy's in Ventura, California.

The SF Imperial coronation happens on Saturday and Sunday.

The Widow Norton takes her annual ridiculous trek to Colma to honor her dear departed husband (a straight man!) Norton.

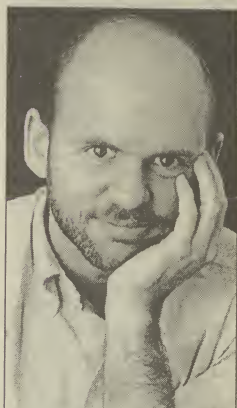
Wednesday, February 27

Take your "butch" pills and hike over to 933 Harrison for Leather Buddies. No cologne, no sneakers, no under arm deodorant! Boots, leather uniforms, latex and no attitude. Call 777-HEAD if in doubt.

Loss and erotica

by John F. Karr

It was a shock to see Paul Reed's obituary in last week's *BAR*. I'd just seen him bustling through the Castro in good spirit and seemingly robust health. Or as healthy as Paul could be, after surviving every known AIDS dilemma possible. Fortunately, he died easily and quickly, in the midst of domestic activity, and for that I'm glad.



Author Paul Reed, literary activist

Before age and AIDS mellowed him, Paul was quite the player. I can never forget meeting Paul, on the same day this paper published a scathing article I'd written about the porn fiction of Max Exander. Way up on my high horse, I declared it just wasn't politically correct in some now-forgotten way. That evening I went for some self-congratulatory sporting to The Caldron, a popular lust garage. There, I hungrily spotted a meaty fellow who seemed both friendly and foreboding. We were soon locked together in such rough rol-

licking (the kind that develops an audience, although we were oblivious) that I had to stop for him to remove his PA: I was afraid of cracking my teeth. When we finally came up for air, he asked my name, and when I told him, he burst out laughing. Not exactly the response a ravagee wants from his ravager. "What's so funny?" I inquired, and he, of course, said, "I'm Max Exander."

And so began a long and rewarding friendship with Paul, whose *nom de porn* was Max. I came to admire his sexual fiction without question, when, at

the very top of the AIDS crisis, he became the first writer of safe-sex erotica. It was just as hot as the non-safe variety, nearly on a par with Aaron Travis and Jack Fritscher. That was because Paul was not merely a good writer, but someone who, like Mahalia Jackson, was trying to live the life he sang about in his song. His was the writer's life, but he came out swinging when he played. Although photographs of Paul show a genial, comforting man, another side that wasn't photographed (at least I've never seen the pictures) would have depicted his forays into distinctly non-vanilla sex. Although I couldn't go there with him, it was my pleasure to know Paul as a caring friend and a searching artist. When I was editor of this paper for a brief period, I was fortunate to publish some of his essays and book reviews.

He's the only author who has dedicated a book to me, an honor I've treasured, as I did the privilege of reading and discussing with him the early drafts of what was to become the first AIDS novel published, Paul's *Facing It*.

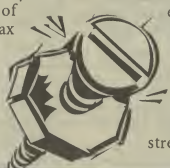
Yet that wasn't the book's only distinction; it was also a good novel. Heavily influenced by his friendship with May Sarton, Paul developed a quiet, ruminative voice that was unusual or at least unexpected in a writer who was at all times a literary activist. His novels will remain a clear-eyed window to his times, as his

erotic writing retains through its craft a hearty effectiveness. Cliff Newman, another sexual pioneer taken by AIDS, used to explain the strength of someone's personal force by saying,

"He's got a big dick." And that was Paul, who, coincidentally, did have a really big one, which he swung literally and metaphorically in most admirable ways.

Super heroes

The death of another sex-positive writer will deprive fans of future editions of the yearly *The Best of the Superstars* compilations. John Patrick died in his Florida home in late October of last year, shortly after finishing the 2002 edition of the cultural survey subtitled *The Year in Sex*. Patrick was the enthusiastic author and editor of some several dozen titles, which, while encouraging a healthy sexuality for men of all ages, provided a lot of fun reading, and of *Superstars*, the world's only self-styled *Consumer Reports* for hustlers — excuse me, escorts. Every year in *Superstars'* pages, a worldwide network of clients commented on the services they'd procured from being escorted. Absolutely fascinating, even imperative reading. And a limited edition. Put down that copy of *The Corrections* and get yourself to A Different Light right now! ▼



Karrnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

response by Mr. Ross. It was a camp affair if there ever was one.

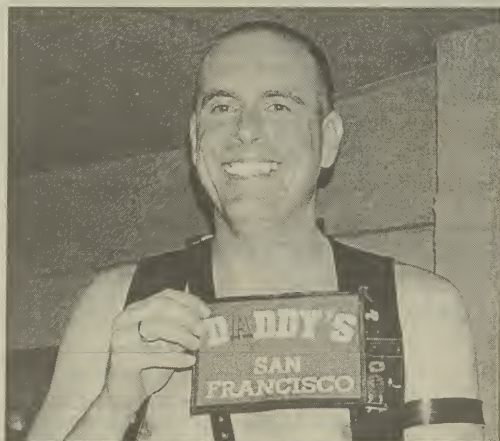
The three contestants, Dan Alexander, Trev Trevino and Joey Johnston had all the necessary "contest attributes," but in the end, it was one of Mama's boys who triumphed. Dan Alexander will represent Daddy's at the Mr. SF Leather 2002 contest in March.

A surprise birthday party for Alan Selby was held early on in the evening, with Supervisor Mark Leno (yee! For Assembly!) doing the honors and proclaiming February 8 as "Alan Selby Day" in the City & County of San Francisco. Bravo, Alan!

Results galore

Last Thursday, February 7, eleven men stepped forward to compete for the Mr. March 2003 bare chest calendar spot. Judges Glennon Sutter, Mike Hargiss, Steve Gaynes and Ray Tilton were overwhelmed and very impressed with the chests and the quality of men who competed. In the end, however, they picked a well-built San Jose man, Tim Chanaday. The runner-up was Bruce Davison. Mr. April 2003 will be chosen on Thursday, February 21st when Omar Moseley, J.J. Ferra of Alameda and Jerry Roberts will pick the winner.

Eric Bernier, Mr. Edge Leather 2001 until midnight last night,



Dan Alexander was chosen Mr. Daddy's Leather 2002 at the contest last Friday, February 8. He advances to compete at the Mr. SF Leather 2002 contest on March 8.

staged a Mardi Gras party at the Edge on Saturday afternoon that brought out a horde of the faithful in full party regalia, costumes and a verve for hedonism. In the process, some \$1,200 was raised for the embattled Positive Resources Center. Eric passed his sash last night at the Edge, but of course, deadlines being what they are....

In Kansas City, Missouri, they held the inaugural Heart of America Leather Woman contest on Saturday night with another

Who's Who? of the leather nation on hand. Only two contestants took part, but a huge number of leather holy cows were there. The producers of the contest — Scott Roewer, Janet Ryan and Jack Miller — received high accolades for a stunning set and well-run contest. Bravo!

When all was said and done, Ms. Cindy Sapp of KC, MO won the title and will compete for American Leather Woman 2002 in Washington, DC in April. I'll be waiting for her! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Capp's Corner Cafe
I was with one man and two young ladies- you with older man. Can't stop thinking of you. Get in touch. ☎ 71491

Dangerous Arab
Muni #49, Teus, Jan 29th, 7:30pm. I was struggling with green suitcase. You got off at 16th. We smiled said goodnight. ☎ 71516

1/22 J Church-- Troy on 24th
Now I'm jumping up and down cause I didn't get your number. Overwhelmed by your looks, I couldn't think straight, let alone have a coherent conversation. Try again? Justin. ☎ 71490

Saw You On the 19 Polk
Navy Blue suit, 35, 5'4", brown hair, got, haunting eyes. Our eyes met, I knew we should be together. That was January 1998. Happy Valentines Day! P.S. do you have my Della CD? Cha cha cha... S 71515

A-Man-And-His-Harley
1-18-02 you were washing your Harley on 19th Street. U looked up as I walked, & I melted, told U it was nice! Would love to meet you! ☎ 71476

Scott! Outback At Steamworks
You came to my room. You, big dark eyes, brown hair, huge dimples, handsome as hell!! What a soul. Your a Hard-One to forget. Greys here to love you! ☎ 71489

Safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

F-Line Romance 1/14 6:30pm
Me: White, blonde with glasses. You: Asian, blackhair, greens turtleneck. Intense glances, I got off at Guerrero and waved. Want to do more? Michael. ☎ 71475

Maniada @ date.com, It's Garrett
Hey sensitive guy it's "Garrett31" from Date.com on yahoo. We both can't seem to connect on line. You 29, virgo, slim, 5'11", 150lbs. "I'm the one." Call Me! ☎ 71474

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Nice Jewish Boy For Sex/Dating
Speak softly but carry a big stick! 42 look mid 30's ad exec., 6'1", 180#, bryer, clean-shaven, good look, own flat for naked massage, small hotels, hiking, art, home-cooked meals. ☎ 71492

Aggressive Bottom Wanted
Couch potato grounded GWM professional 58, HIV+, slip hair, cut, smoker, shy top, fra/p looking for younger cut GWM for dating and more. ☎ 71493

GMM Seeks GMM For Love And...
Adven. I am 25 seeking 20-29yr. old lover for religion, sex, love, adventure, partnership, no freaks or weirdos. I believe in God or a good higher power. I would some day love to have a lover, but not a must. ☎ 71494

"I Love Muscles!"
Hot slender in-shape GWM, educ prof. 36, 5'9", 140#, brn/gm, seeks very muscular man, any race. I'm fun, safe HIVneg, u too pls. ☎ 71495

Very Handsome Guy ISO Hot Asian
Gd/king, GWM, 38, 185, 6'1", looking for hot Asian muscle guy for friendship & hot fun. You be 21-35 & goodlooking too. New to area. ☎ 71496

39 y.o. Latino Wants Romance
5'10", 165 looking for man in late 30's who is a romantic, responsible and willing to share quiet times movies, talks, dinner, walks, lots of kisses & you know... ☎ 71497

"Change Your Life..."
GWM, 55, 5'8", 180, brn/bl, HIV-, seeks special friendship with bright and fun guy. Let's enjoy sharing, adventure, growth, happy times, and maybe even safe sex. Sound like fun? ☎ 71498

RedHead
SWM, 43, 5'10", 175#. Santa Rosa Native, ex-Navy, muscle guy. Enjoys drumming, talk radio & the outdoors. Seek female. ☎ 71517

Romantic Sensuous Man
Seeks muscular male 40-55, HIV-, For dating in SF. Enjoy TV, cooking, working out, lil/pai, I'm man of color. 5'7", 150#, 40k, HIV-, neg, NS, no anal. ☎ 71518

Concert Partner, Friend, More?
GWM, 32, 6'4", b/bl, handsome, intelligent, animal/musical lover. Enjoys classical music, movies, reading, conversation, hot, passionate (sometimes rough) sex. Bottom HIV-, Berkeley. You: mature, centered, dependable, easy going, affectionate, honest. ☎ 71519

Goodlooking Black Ex-Marine
Healthy, clean-cut, friendly, cuddly, affectionate and physically sensational. Young 50. Seeking mature (uncut) man 60+. Let's have some fun! S 71520

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Verse Fisting Buddy
Blk male 40, 5'8", 171 into all ass-play fisting, fucking, rimming, toys, videos your place anytime. ☎ 71479

Oral Expert Looking For Juice
I am looking for men that love to be serviced. 18-35. I promise you will be pleased. Asian & Latino A+. ☎ 71477

Asian Slave Wanted:
Bi WM professional, 50's, 5'11". You are eager to please a master, mature 35-50, in need of mental and physical discipline in supportive S/M relationship. Feminine qualities A+. ☎ 71478

Endowed And Sincere Black Gentleman, 47 seeks a master (no age is too old), husky, brown-skinned-Hispanic male. Pleasure guaranteed to the right guy. Dark hair and moustache a plus. ☎ 71480

Hungry Ass?
Butch dyke seeks gay man with hungry ass who might enjoy a cock that says hard! Enjoyment of pain is optional, but he must be good at taking orders. ☎ 71481

Seeking Fun And Friendship
GWM, 46, 145, seeking Asian or Latin 25-45 for hot sex and friendship. Must love to kiss, touch & cuddle. Daytimes the best, your place or mine. ☎ 71482

Stiff In Portland!
Well hung uncut BM ISO mature (45-60) experienced bottoms for deep plowings. Looks less important than lite oral experts, dentures, swallowers, aroma videos. Men of color are pluses. ☎ 71483

Experienced Top Needed
For wannabe bottom must know how to break me in make me cum, be a/w smooth/lite hairy clean shaven patient gentle submit to all my needs. ☎ 71484

Total Anal Bottom Bear
50, 195#, 5'10", hairy stocky Caucasian bear, want to lie on my belly get mounted/fuck by ass fucking top men. Any age/race. ☎ 71499

"Please Sir, This Boy Kneels And..."
Begs to receive your training in sucking your cock Sir, boy is straight and seeks training to submit to Master. Am well trained in SM/BD and is a true masochist sir. Call with your orders. ☎ 71500

Love To Ride Big Cock
White 39yr. old bald 5'8" 9"cock always "horny". You never had hot juicy hole until you have mine fore-play eating cock! Any age and race, straight men ok. Don ☎ 71501

Sonoma County Body-Worship
Love getting head? Being rimmed? Admired or having your balls sucked while you jack off? I'm a middle-aged, generous, healthy, fun GWM who loves giving pleasure to slender guys, 18-35. ☎ 71502

Seeking Total Top
GWM, 44, 6'4", 185#, in-shape, clean-shaven, hairy, fair-skinned, light brown hair, total bottom. Seeking sex, friendship, or ltr. Prefer Asian/Latins. ☎ 71503

Slaveboy Sought
By WM prof. 50's 5'11". You are over 35, small/medium build, eager to please a master, receive body/mind discipline in secure relationship. Fem. qualities desirable. ☎ 71504

Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top. GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, lbs, athletic, HIV- seeks masculine in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging erotic bondage with gags, toys, light SM. Trustworthy, discreet. Novice ok. SF/East Bay. ☎ 71505

Mature Daddy- Master Seeks Boy
18-45, attr., submissive, for ongoing intimacy with his mid-70's gdlk's mentor. Various scenes explored as mutually acceptable. Must be HIV-. ☎ 71506

Free Massage
After your sweaty workout or run. You be fit, white, 21-35 and love to get a rub. Evenings or weekends. ☎ 71526

U/C Sonoma Co.
Or North Bay looking for u/c men to service. Me mature WM 60, 5'6", 145#, HIV-, moustache. You H/W prop. age not important. Foreskin A+. ☎ 71521

Naked or Clothed
One of us is naked, one of us is clothed. One orders, one obeys. We are both lean, masculine and safe. I'm 43 and you are younger or same age. ☎ 71522

Want to Service Latino or Black
GWM enjoys servicing, Gay, Bi or Straight men. Kick back and enjoy. My place. 18 to 45 only. ☎ 71523

Trim Asian Bottom Wanted
For hot heavy sex by built, attractive masculine jock. 6', 160lbs, 48yr. Healthy HIV+. I'm cuddly and strong. You're trim, affectionate and healthy HIV+ or -. ☎ 71524

Black Top seeks Hot Bottom Boyz
35, masculine 9"cut seeks Gay or Bi-submissive w/smooth bubble butt, ages 29-55, any race for deep fuck-ing. Must have place to play. San Jose. ☎ 71525

You Kickback
I will service. Suck cock and balls. You be horny up and need to release. Call! ☎ 71527

Bottom WM for Top BM
East Bay Latin, mature, 5'8", 154, HIV-, N/D, no BS, seek HIV-, Top Black males in East/So Bay other areas ok. Looks, age, unimportant but be HIV-. Hurry I'm Hot! ☎ 71528

FETISHES

Barbershop/Headshaves Fans?
Do you like bondage and bald men? Head shaves, give or receive? 32y.o. masc. jock needs mature men into playing barber. Prefer men 45+ older and into cigars, bondage, and shaving. ☎ 71485

Pisstop Seeks Masc Guzzlers
Dwntwn W/S top needs W/S btms to drink my recycled beer pls. I'm 40, 6'1", 170# blond goatie hairy, HIV neg. No hard drugs or fems. Dentures A+. ☎ 71486

I Love Feet And Ass
I want to suck your feet and play with your ass at the same time until you cum please be masculine with big nice looking feet, White boys+. ☎ 71487

Puppy Seeks Master
Puppy 6'1", 150lbs, HIV-for puppy training. Pup likes cages, dog bowls, dog park, dog group, to share heavy n/p (n/p) race unimportant, under 40yrs. Must have cage! Be HIV-. ☎ 71488

I Need Your Vote!!! Yes, Yours!!
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Whipping Boy...
Older slim male is subject to fetishes; may be beaten, spanked etc. Can be sexually forced. Prefer solemn dignified setting. SF Bay. ☎ 71510

In Search Of Nip Pig Workout Buddy
47yr. old stocky 200# GWM, brn, brn, salt & pepper goatee tatt's & piercings with huge erect nips. This pig ISO domin., master, masculine nip, "pig bear daddy" to share heavy n/p work outs with growth in mind! Smokers A++ pleasure. ☎ 71511

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Bottom Needs Discipline!
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Pepe, Are You Ok? Come Sit For Me.
I would like you to model. Bob B. Please call, I'm worried about you. Let me know you're ok. ☎ 71513

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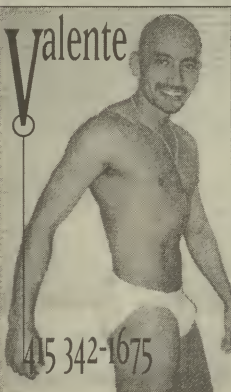


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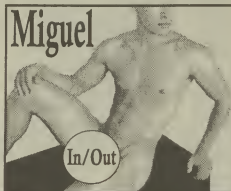
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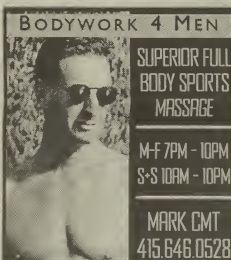
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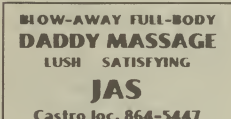
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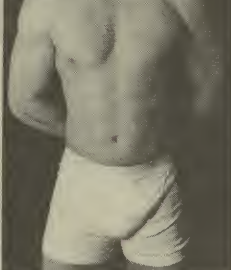
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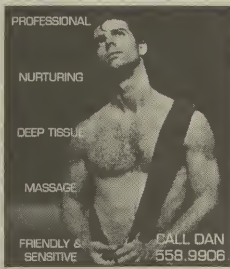
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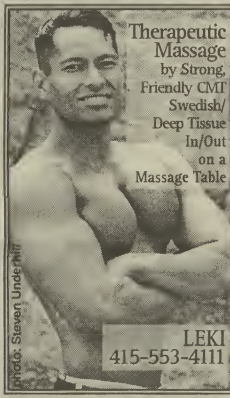
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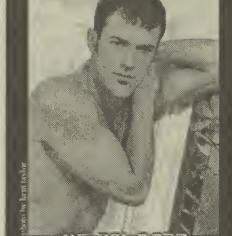
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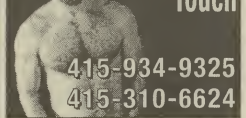
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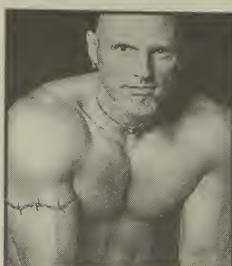
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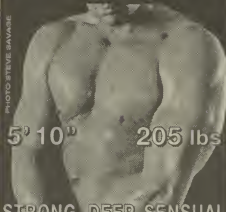
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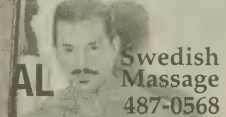
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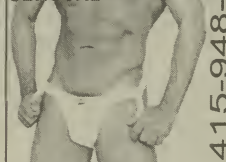
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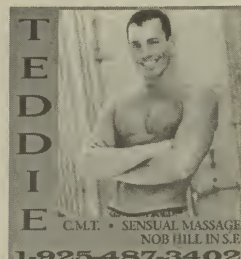
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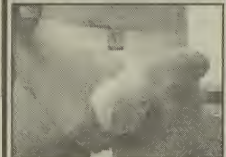
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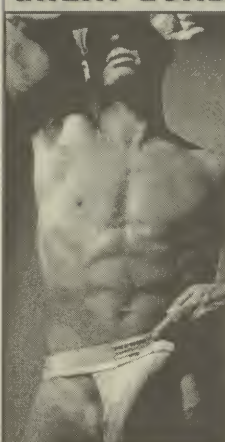
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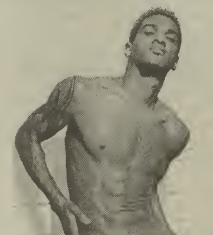
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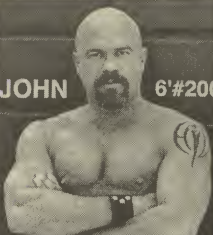
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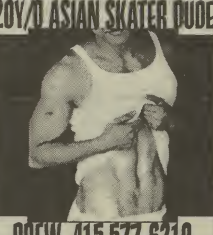
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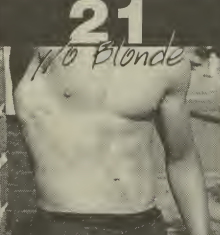
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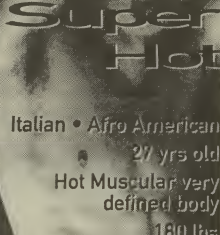
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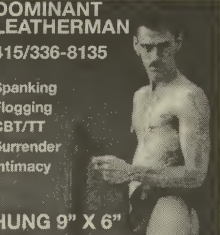
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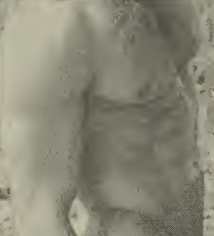
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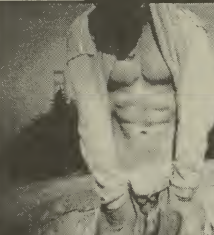
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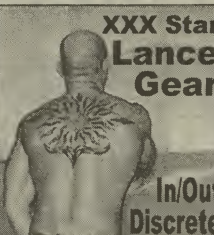


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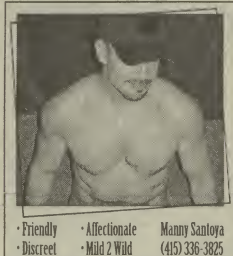
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## PEOPLE

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Which gets me through  
The darkest night  
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All My Love Clifford

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Valentines Night Beer Bust
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The San Franciscans Valentines
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Demonstrate your Mr. Townsend
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